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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. XII.—NO. 7. WEEKLY EDITION. DECEMBER 26, 1874.

1875. THE 1875.

PITTSBURGH

Commercial,

A Political, Literary, Commercial and General Newspaper,

DEVOTED TO THE

Best Interests of the People!

IN POLITICS.

The COMMERCIAL will hereafter, as heretofore, be devoted to the support of Republican principles, maintaining its independence *within* the Republican Party, and claiming the right at all times to speak freely and fearlessly on the merits of men and measures. Party government is essential to a constitutional country, and journals claiming to be independent of party are usually also independent of principle. Faithful to the great convictions and aims upon which the Republican Party was based, it is the mouthpiece of no clique or faction, supporting the party solely because it believes that party is founded on principle and for principle.

THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

Of the COMMERCIAL will contain, from day to day, contributions from able writers upon all subjects—Political, Literary, Scientific, Legal, Commercial, Social and Religious—which will be found fully and set forth plainly and independently, keeping in view the prime aim of the paper, which is the advancement of the best interests of all sections of the country.

ITS NEWS DEPARTMENTS

Will always contain brief but accurate reports of all the occurrences of the day. Liberal expenditures will be made in securing special telegrams and correspondence from the great news centers of the country, so that readers of the COMMERCIAL can always rely on being served with early and reliable news.

In the department devoted to the publication of Local News will be found a daily history of the city and its environs, gathered by a corps of careful writers and set forth in attractive style.

THE MARKETS

Will, as heretofore, receive careful attention. Full telegraphic reports of the State of Business, with Prices Current, will be received daily from the Trade Centers of this and other States. The Iron and Coal Market, in all its branches, will be reported fully and accurately. As a commercial medium the COMMERCIAL stands second to no paper in the country.

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HOLIDAY FASHIONS.

The Very Latest from Paris—An Interesting Paragraph for the Ladies.

"All the dresses," says a correspondent of the *Hornet*, "cling closely to the figure; the bodies and skirts seem made in one, for the bodies descend very low over the hips, and their junction with the skirt is concealed by a scarf, which is tied half way down the back in eastern fashion. Ball dresses are powdered with gold or silver, or are studded over with real gems. For those who have not a Golconda mine at their disposal, however, beads representing precious stones are being manufactured, and the dresses are studded with these. The effect of these bejeweled dresses at night is extremely effective. Spangles are much worn, even walking dresses are being covered with them. In black they have quite taken the place of jet. Steel spangles are put on gray dresses. It is the rule for the spangles to be of the same color as the dress. Sandalled shoes are coming more and more into vogue. They are not so advantageous to the feet as plain boots, but they agree better with the semi-Grecian and semi-Oriental style of dress that is now coming into fashion. White sandals with white dresses, blue sandals with blue dresses, black sandals with black dresses, and so on. To look pretty they should reach half-way up the ankle. Moliere shoes are worn for the morning alone, and black boots for the afternoon. For evening, high sandals. All fashionable walking dresses being made with very tight, long sleeves, buttoned at the wrists, two buttoned gloves are worn in preference to longer gloves. Small linen cravats are universally worn round the neck. They are very becoming, and very elegant looking. Take a long strip of Brussels net, sufficient to tie round the neck, fourfolded it each end with very deep lace, and your cravat is made. Tulle looks pretty, but is not considered *comme-il-faut*. As it will not wash either, it becomes more expensive than real lace. Feathers are worn in profusion, on hats and bonnets alike. Never were they so much worn. They are a perfect *furore* for them. Some hats are covered with them. You cannot wear too many. They are beginning to be worn in the hair also for evening dress, marabouts especially."

Proposed Reunion and Encampment of the 126th O. V. L. in September, 1875.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

CADIZ, O., December 16, 1874.

A number of the surviving soldiers of the 126th Ohio volunteers met in the parlor of the Central Hotel here, to-day, to make the necessary arrangements for a reunion of the regiment next year. After a free discussion, they decided on holding it at this place, and the 7th of September, 1875, was the time fixed. On that day the regiment will go into camp and continue in camp two days. A great deal of interest is manifested here in the anticipated reunion. Inasmuch as three of the nine companies of the regiment were raised in this county, and the members generally were the sons, brothers or other relatives of our best citizens. The 126th was one of the best regiments sent from Ohio during the war, and it was stated to-day by one of the officers that it had participated in eighteen battles—some of them the bloodiest of the war, and in the Wilderness campaign alone it lost, in killed, wounded and captured, over three-fourths of its entire number. Colonel Jack Weyand, of Beaver, Pa., was unanimously elected President of the society, and Captain McCoy, of Cadiz, as Secretary. J. K. Andrews, chaplain of the regiment, is the historian. D. L.

WAYNESBURG, PA.

Death of R. W. Downey, Esq.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WAYNESBURG, PA., December 18, 1874.

R. W. Downey, Esq., one of our oldest and most prominent lawyers, died at one o'clock to-day, after a long illness. He was an excellent and public-spirited citizen, and will be greatly missed.

CRIMINAL RECORD.

Body of a Young Woman Found in a Philadelphia Medical College.

PHILADELPHIA, December 19.—The body of a young woman was found, to-day, in the medical college on Ninth street, whither it had been taken, it is alleged, by the physicians in the Women's Hospital on North Twelfth street. The remains had been packed in a trunk, the legs being pinioned behind. Dr. Serpente, *alias* Bolles, said to be the keeper of the Women's Hospital, has been arrested.

Coroner of Northumberland Murdered.

POTTSVILLE, PA., December 19.—Frederick Hesser, Coroner of Northumberland county, was murdered at Coal Run mines, near Shamokin, last night. There is great excitement, and the citizens have organized a committee to investigate.

The Cholera Epidemic of 1873.

NASHVILLE, TENN., December 17.—The physicians of Nashville met in convention last evening at the Board of Health rooms to receive Surgeon E. McClellan, of the United States army, who is in the city for the purpose of investigating the initial causes of the cholera epidemic of 1873. Dr. McClellan stated that in his investigations he had discovered that cholera had passed from New Orleans to Vicksburg, thence to Shreveport and Memphis, where it was scattered North, South, East and West, until it reached the confines of Missouri. The disease had generally originated after the arrival of emigrants from the infected parts and unpacking their baggage, the disease being contracted by their clothing; that cholera, small-pox, fever and other contagious diseases could be rapidly and effectively distributed by common carriers; that close railroad cars were the closets were the means of spreading disease, as passed through the cities on the line of the railroad. In answer to a question by Dr. Buist, why Louisville, although connected by rail with Chicago, Cincinnati, Memphis and Nashville, was not affected, while Nashville was so severely scourged, he answered by saying that the question opened up a wide field for argument; that it was a well known fact that cholera might be imported into this city again and again; die out and be revived by some local cause or causes.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 18, 1874.

Bridges Over Navigable Waters.

The communication of Major Merrill regarding the new bridge across the Allegheny river at Pittsburgh, which was today referred to the House of Representatives indorsed by the Secretary of War, raises the interesting and important question of the practicability of giving to the United States supervisory control of the bridging of all the navigable waters in the country. It seems that the original thirteen States have an authority over this matter which States subsequently admitted to the Union cannot claim. The former can erect bridges over navigable water without reference to the general law, and the question of national control is one which cannot fail to involve much discussion. The House Committee on Commerce has informally considered the question, but has taken no vote. The sentiment of the committee seems, however, to be in favor of the proposition that the General Government should control the whole matter.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 19, 1874.

CAUCUS OF REPUBLICAN SENATORS—A FINANCE BILL AGREED UPON—ITS ADOPTION CONSIDERED PROBABLE.

At a caucus of Republican Senators, today, there was an unanimous expression that all citizens in the South must be protected in their lawful rights. Some Senators suggested that there should be an increase of the army. Others were of the opinion that improved militia arrangements would better secure protection, while being less objectionable than the regular military force, and more in accordance with the spirit of our institutions. The question was postponed for a future, but early day.

The Caucus Committee on Southern Affairs will not make any recommendation with regard to Arkansas until the committee appointed by the House shall have made their report. Therefore the Arkansas question was not discussed.

There was an indisposition manifested to take action relative to the Kellogg government. As to admitting Pinchback, it was said there were questions before the Committee on Privileges and Elections affecting him, which should first be settled.

Most of the time of the caucus was consumed on the finance question. The debate took a wide range, but all who spoke were in favor of the early resumption. Some thought this should be done, and therefore it was the part of true statesmanship to harmonize their views, if possible. The Committee of Eleven, of which Senator Sherman is chairman, before they brought their report into the caucus, differed, seven being in favor of the report and four against it; but, finally, on motion of one of the latter, the report was made unanimous and adopted by the caucus. The bill agreed upon will be reported on Monday by the Committee. Its leading features are substantially as follows:

First—Free banking to be open to all individuals and associations, without limitation of capital.

Second—The retiring of an amount of greenbacks equal to eighty per cent. of the amount of new national notes issued until the greenback circulation shall be reduced to $300,000,000, after which no further reduction of greenbacks is to take place. [It is claimed that by this provision there will be neither expansion nor contraction of the currency, as about twenty per cent. is now required as bank reserves.]

Third—The gradual withdrawal and destruction of fractional currency and the substitution of silver coin, the arrangement to go into effect as soon as practicable, under direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, who is authorized to use surplus money for supplying silver coin and, if this is not sufficient, to sell the requisite amount of bonds of the new series to obtain funds for that purpose.

Fourth—The removing of the cost for the coinage of gold at the several mints.

Fifth—The resumption of specie payments, to commence on the first day of January, 1879. The Secretary is authorized to use the surplus specie in the Treasury, but, if that is not sufficient, to sell bonds in order to obtain gold to pay Treasury notes. But this last provision does not, like the others, go into immediate effect. The Legal Tender act remains undisturbed.

The bill having been agreed to almost unanimously by the caucus (there being only four members dissenting) insures the passage of the bill by the Senate, and will, it is thought by Senators, pass the House of Representatives by a respectable majority. In this case no doubt is entertained that it will receive the approval of the President, as it is in accordance with his recent recommendation to Congress. It is said that so much of the fractional currency is mutilated and lost (as much as four per cent. annually) that silver can take its place with no inconvenience to the public. The Government is able to purchase and coin silver at a profit, and can at an early period effect the substitution. The Secretary of the Treasury says the estimate of the Director of the Mint shows a gain in specie and bullion, in the last two fiscal years, of about $38,000,000, and the stock of specie in the country to be about $136,000,000. This, in connection with an annual production of about $70,000,000 of precious metals, affords encouragement that the stock of coin may, within a reasonable time, and with favorable legislation, be accumulated to an extent sufficient to enable the resumption of specie payments to be undertaken and maintained.

HAYDENVILLE.

Bursting of One of the New Dams—The Village Deluged Again—Narrow Escape of Children Skating—No Loss of Life.

HAYDENVILLE, MASS., December 19, 1874.—The large new dam just completed for Hayden, Gere & Co.'s brass works, at this place, burst about eleven o'clock this forenoon, and a large body of water, covered with ice about ten inches thick, swept down the channel through the village, with a crash similar to the one of May last. The cotton mill dam, just below this village, held the water and ice, which has probably prevented any sacrifice of life at Leeds, with which place there is no telegraphic communication. There were seventy-five or more school children skating on the pond at the time, but it is thought all escaped. There was great excitement for the time, as it was reported that two large Goshen reservoirs had broken, and the inhabitants were making for high ground as fast as possible.

Later reports show that there was no loss of life above or below the broken dam. The cotton mill dam, about half a mile below Hayden, Gere & Co.'s dam, held the water and ice, and prevented any loss of life or further destruction of property. The cotton mill dam is one of the strongest on the river. A portion of it was carried away by the May flood, but has since been thoroughly repaired.

STEAMER LOST AT SEA.

THE JAPAN BURNT BETWEEN YOKOHAMA AND HONG KONG.

But One Small Boat-load of Survivors Heard From.

Immense Loss of Life Among Steerage Passengers.

HONG KONG, December 19.—The Pacific Mail Company's steamship Japan, from San Francisco and Yokohama for this port, was burned on Thursday last, when sixty miles out from Yokohama. A few of the crew and passengers have arrived here. It is feared that many lives have been lost.

NEW YORK, December 19.—The Japan left San Francisco November 14th, arriving at Yokohama December 10th, and sailed thence on the 12th for Hong Kong with three cabin passengers, F. W. Crocker, R. M. Tindell and Mary Stott, and 424 Chinese in the steerage. The steamer left San Francisco with 975 tons of freight and $575,000 of treasure. Her officers were: Captain, E. R. Warsaw; first officer, F. W. Hart; second, H. H. Andrews; third, J. P. Gallagher; chief engineer, John Cosgrove; first assistant engineer, W. Bennett; second, David F. Alton; third, James Henry; purser, John Rooney; surgeon, V. B. Gates; freight clerk, C. L. Graham; storekeeper, W. B. Horn; steward, O. N. Clark, and second steward, Wm. Ray. The Japan was one of the old wooden ships of the Pacific Mail Company, and is insured for $350,000 in English and French companies.

The following cable dispatch in regard to the disaster to the Japan was received to-night from Mr. Emory, agent of the Pacific Mail Company at Hong Kong, by Mr. Hatch, managing director: "The chief engineer, seven Chinese crew and one lady passenger arrived in the ship's boat. They report that the Japan burned at midnight of the 17th, forty miles this side of Swatow, twelve miles off land. Other boats made for land. Further particulars reported shortly."

HONG KONG, December 21.—The captain and several more of the crew and passengers of the Pacific Mail steamship Japan have arrived here. The following yet remain to be heard from: R. M. Tindell, cabin passenger, one steerage passenger, Surgeon Gale, several of the crew, and 400 Chinese. The steamer was first discovered on fire about seven o'clock Thursday night, the fire being over the boilers. The vessel was then 150 miles from Hong Kong. After two hours spent in fruitless efforts to get the fire under control, it was decided finally to abandon the vessel, and Friday morning all hands were transferred to boats. They remained about the vessel until noon of that day, when all hands proceeded for Swatow. The mails were not saved.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE

England.

DISASTROUS FIRE AT READING.

LONDON, December 19.—The iron works of the Great Western Railway Company at Reading were burned to-day. Four hundred persons are thus thrown out of employment.

Germany.

Herald Cable Special.]

VON ARNIM SENTENCED TO THREE MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

LONDON, December 19.—The sentence of Count Von Arnim embodies no dishonor. The charges of embezzlement fall to the ground. However, Von Arnim's neglect to return the dispatches, when asked by the Foreign Department, makes necessary the setting of an example. The general belief is that the Emperor will pardon him.

BERLIN, December 19.—Count Von Arnim has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment, deducting from the term the period which he has already spent in confinement in jail.

LONDON, December 21.—A special to the *Daily News*, from Berlin, states that both the prosecution and defense have appealed to the Kammergericht from the sentence of Count Von Arnim. The case will come up in the higher court in about three months.

BERLIN, December 20.—The sentence of Count Von Arnim, in addition to the term of imprisonment, requires the payment of the costs. The Count is permitted to retain his title, dignities, with the title of "Excellency." He will go to Italy immediately on the expiration of his term of imprisonment, for the restoration of his health.

France.

DEAD LOCK IN THE ASSEMBLY—A DISSOLUTION INEVITABLE.

LONDON, December 21—5:30 A. M.—The *Times'* correspondent at Paris telegraphs that the division of parties in consequence of the vote in the Committee of Thirty, on the 16th instant, has produced a dead lock, which will certainly cause a dissolution of the Assembly when a vote on the constitutional bills is taken, immediately after recess.

MISSISSIPPI.

Extra Session of the Legislature—Message of the Governor—The Case Plainly Stated.

JACKSON, MISS., December 17.—The Legislature assembled at noon, nearly all the members present. The Governor sent in a message, claiming that the present condition of affairs was brought about by violent white men for political purposes. He says:

"At this moment the State and county authorities are successfully resisted, and the free action of officials is impossible. Armed insurgents procure orders for a local election, with the intention that ballots shall be cast in such a reign of terror that the will of the majority may be undone. Conspiracies have been deliberately and knowingly entered on the work of revolution, and we must face the facts as they exist. If the insurrection is successful, it must reduce the majority to the will of the minority; and that minority which means power by force, must return it by legislation as harsh and cruel as the first acts of violence, in which case one race will be deprived of their rights and remanded back to as unfortunate a condition as they have ever known, or else compelled to wander, seeking freedom rather than homes, as is now the case with many of their race, in other States."

He makes no recommendations to the Legislature, but when it is remembered that a majority of the House are blacks, and that the Governor's whole message is an appeal to the prejudices of that majority, its general tenor cannot be mistaken.

He closes by requesting the Legislature to take such steps as will overthrow the insurrection in Warren county and prevent similar occurrences.

The Legislature don't seem to know how to grapple with the problem presented to them. Probably they will ask the United States for troops for Vicksburg, and probably they will repeal the law authorizing special elections, thinking to defeat the special election already ordered in Warren county on the 31st of December.

CINCINNATI.

Hog Packing Statistics from the "Price Current."

CINCINNATI, December 17.—The Cincinnati *Price Current*, the leading authority upon hog packing statistics, will publish to-morrow morning a very full preliminary report of pork packing in the West. Returns have been received from points which packed last season nine-tenths of all packed at interior points. The aggregate packing to date, ranging from the 9th to the 16th of December, at 279 points, is given at 1,190,000 head against 1,067,000 last season—an increase of 93,000. These points packed last season a total of 1,887,000, and of 2,084,000, the whole number packed at interior points during the season of 1873-4. The average of weights indicate a falling off of about twenty-one pounds per head, or 42,000,000 from last season, with fully a corresponding decline in the yield of lard. No estimates are given for the season, as it is designed to furnish such information two weeks later, when such estimates can be more satisfactorily and reliably calculated. The packing at the six principal cities is given at 2,050,000 to date, against 2,070,000 last year. Interior points reported from, packed last season, 196,954 head. Should these points show a corresponding increase this season, the total packing at interior points, in round numbers, is 1,400,000, and including the six leading cities, aggregates 3,490,000, against 3,208,000 last year.

POLITICAL.

COLONEL YUTZY GETS THE CERTIFICATE.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

SOMERSET, PA., December 18, 1874.

The Schell-Yutzy Senatorial contest was to-day decided by the Court of Somerset county, in favor of Colonel Yutzy.

A Bohemian paper, *Plas Pravdy* (Voice of Truth), is soon to be issued at Iowa City. It will be the only religious paper of that language published in the country.

XLIII. CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 17, 1874.

SENATE.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill to revise, amend and consolidate the laws relating to the security of life on board vessels propelled in whole or in part by steam, and the reading thereof was continued. After the bill had been read through, Mr. BOUTWELL moved that it be laid over till Tuesday next, as an officer of the Treasury Department who had been authorized to make an examination into certain provisions of the bill, had not completed such examination. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, from the Committee on Agriculture, reported back the bill to enable the Commissioners of Agriculture to make a special distribution of seeds, with an amendment that $30,000 instead of $50,000 be appropriated for the purpose. The amendment was agreed to and the bill passed.

The Senate then resumed consideration of the bill to provide for the better government of the District of Columbia, the pending question being on the motion of Mr. THURMAN to strike out the word "Regents" wherever it occurred and insert in its place "Commissioners," so that the Board should be styled Board of Commissioners instead of Board of Regents. Agreed to.

Mr. MORTON said there was a feature of this bill to which he was entirely opposed. There was no doubt that the bill had been worked up carefully by those who had charge of it, but it provided for disfranchising the people of the District —150,000 or 170,000 persons. It took from them the power of self-government, and put the government of the District in the hands of three men. In that respect the bill was anti-republican and anti-democratic, and he did not feel that he could vote for it without violating the spirit of the Constitution. He did not believe the troubles of this District grew out of the rightsof suffrage. He believed right of local self-government was just as important as it was in New York or any State, and did not think the Constitution of the United States sustained the argument of his friend (Morrill) that Congress had exclusive control over the District and could abolish the right of suffrage here. He (Morton) knew what would be said about abolishing the right. It would be said that it was intended to get clear of the colored vote, from the fact that there were people in this District who were willing to be disfranchised to get clear of the colored vote, from the beginning the city has had a local government. Congress had the same control over the Territories as over the District, and it would be a monstrous thing for Congress to have the right to deprive the people of the Territories of the right of suffrage. If Congress had power to depute the government of this District, how much more did it provides, it had the power to depute the government to the whole of the people of the District. At the proper time he proposed to offer an amendment providing for the election of three Commissioners by the people of the District, instead of their appointment by the President.

Mr. MORRILL, of Vermont, said this bill violates no principle of local government. It never was intended that local government should exist here. The authority of Congress over the District was supreme. The right of local self-government could not be violated by the general government. It was not expedient to have suffrage in this District, and any Senator conversant with the various classes of authority here in Washington must know that. He had not the slightest doubt that Congress had exclusive control over the District, and could confer or withhold suffrage as it thought proper. Suffrage had always been a very sickening business to the people of this District. He then spoke of the clause in reference to the excise board and said it was intended to prevent the invade the domain of morals under the form of legislation. Vice and immorality generally followed the track of these public bibitory laws. As he objected to this excise board was unlimited in regard to prescribing regulations under which liquor licenses could be issued. He spoke at length upon the law which had occurred in the State of Maine from attempts to regulate the liquor traffic. He moved to strike out that portion of the bill which required that every person selling liquor license to give bond for faithfully observing the conditions thereof, and for the payment of the taxes and license fee as shall not be paid in advance, and to insert in place thereof a provision that fees for license to be paid into the Treasury of the United States in advance. Rejected.

Mr. MORTON moved to strike out the clause requiring the Board of Commissioners to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and insert in lieu thereof a clause requiring said Commissioners to be elected by the qualified voters of the District.

Mr. EDMUNDS, in behalf of the argument of Mr. Morton to make the Commissioners elective, and said the evil under which this District had suffered was caused in main by the exercise of suffrage by those totally unfit for it. He hoped to see the day when the question of suffrage would be left where the framers of the Constitution intended it to be—in the hands of those to be effected by the right. He would not vote to bring the curse of negro suffrage upon the people of this District again. Their interests were much more secure in the hands of three honest, upright Commissioners than in the hands of negro voters.

Mr. THURMAN said he was opposed to the amendment of the Senator from Indiana. The duty of Congress was prescribed by the Constitution of the United States. Congress provided that there should have exclusive control over the District of Columbia. When Congress said it should be no suffrage in the District, it would not deprive any man of any right guaranteed him by the Constitution. Congress had the same power over the District that it had over Fort Monroe or Fort Hamilton, and would it be contended that there could be any authority within any of those forts in hostility to the Federal Government, It never was intended that the seat of the Federal Government should be at the power of any municipality. The people of this District are not the only persons interested in it. The Government itself is the largest property holder here, and had a right to protect its own property.

Pending discussion, the Senate, after an executive session, adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House, in Committee of the Whole, Mr. E. H. Roberts in the Chair, considered the Legislative Appropriation bill.

Nothing of public interest occurred until the paragraph was reached which makes provision for the Bureau of Education, a proposition to increase the clerical force of the Bureau was made by Mr. MORROW, and advocated by himself, Messrs. BECK and TOWNSEND, and was opposed by Messrs. FRYE and COX. The latter avowed his hostility to the whole system of bureaucracy, and argued that all these bureaus which had no warrant in the Constitution would be abolished by the next Congress, because, if the Democratic party had not the power to do away with such power in the House to prevent the passage of laws.

Mr. GARFIELD favored the increase proposed by Mr. Monroe, and defended the Bureau or Education as a necessary instrument for obtaining and publishing educational statistics. If the Democratic party proposed to begin its new career of power by putting out the eye of the Government by destroying the methods of obtaining intelligence of the condition of the people; if the Government was to enter on a system which build penitentiaries, and was to take no steps to get information as to whether it was not possible by a better system to avoid the necessity for penitentiaries, then he though it was well that they should have timely notice.

Mr. WILLARD, of Vermont, argued against the Bureau of Education as an unwarranted interference with a matter which the people themselves could and did control. He was not aware that there was for a Bureau of Boots and Shoes.

Mr. FORT. Mr. Monroe's proposition was rejected.

Mr. HEREFORD moved to strike out the whole appropriation for the Bureau of Education and argued against the whole system of centralization. He referred to Spain as illustrating that system by which a nation might become powerful but by which individuals were dwarfed. The motion was rejected.

The committee progressed as far as page 64.

Mr. DAWES introduced a bill making provision for the payment of the sinking fund. Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

Adjourned.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 18, 1874.

The reading of the journal was dispensed with and Mr. CAMERON stated that King Kalakaua was in the President's room, in the rear of the Senate Chamber, and suggested that the Senators call upon him there. He moved that a recess be taken until one o'clock, and that the Senate proceed in a body to the House of Representatives at 12:15, and take part in the ceremony attending the reception of the King. Agreed to.

The Senators then proceeded to the President's room, where they were presented to the King, and at 12:15 went to the House of Representatives, headed by the Vice-President and Sergeant-at-Arms.

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Mr. GARFIELD replied to Messrs. Beck and Speer, and criticized the use of such words as "vampires," "thieves," "robbers" and "swindlers" in connection with a department of the government. He declared that while the Judiciary Department had not always been as economical as it ought to have been, there had been steady, earnest work done in bringing down the expenses of that department, not alone by the committees of Congress, but by the department itself. Some reforms had been made in Congress had, on his (Garfield's) own motion, made appropriations for contingencies definite and precise, instead of appropriations in gross, and had cited for their rule, millions of dollars in a lump. Against what particular thing in the bill, he asked, had the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Speer) directed his thunder? That gentleman had been kicking against the sky—shooting at stars. His fusil roared, and the skies re-echoed; where were his birds?

Mr. COX (from his seat)—The election brought them down. [Laughter.]

Mr. GARFIELD—Well, I suppose that is—If that gentleman (Speer) sees anything wrong in the bill, let him point it out and I will help him to set it right; but I cannot answer an indefinite charge. He (Garfield) had been a very sickening business to the people of this District. He then spoke of the clause in reference to the excise board and said it was never intended to invade the domain of morals under the form of legislation. Vice and immorality generally followed the track of these prohibitory laws. As he objected to this excise board was unlimited in regard to prescribing regulations under which liquor licenses could be issued. He spoke at length upon the law which had occurred in the State of Maine from attempts to regulate the liquor traffic. He moved to strike out that portion of the bill which required that every person selling liquor license to give bond for faithfully observing the conditions thereof, and for the payment of the taxes and license fee as shall not be paid in advance, and to insert in place thereof a provision that fees for license to be paid into the Treasury of the United States in advance. Rejected.

Mr. MORTON moved to strike out the clause requiring the Board of Commissioners to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and insert in lieu thereof a clause requiring said Commissioners to be elected by the qualified voters of the District.

Mr. EDMUNDS, in behalf of the argument of Mr. Morton to make the Commissioners elective, and said the evil under which this District had suffered was caused in main by the exercise of suffrage by those totally unfit for it. He hoped to see the day when the question of suffrage would be left where the framers of the Constitution intended it to be—in the hands of those to be effected by the right. He would not vote to bring the curse of negro suffrage upon the people of this District again. Their interests were much more secure in the hands of three honest, upright Commissioners than in the hands of negro voters.

Mr. THURMAN said he was opposed to the amendment of the Senator from Indiana. The duty of Congress was prescribed by the Constitution of the United States. The Constitution provided that there should have exclusive control over the District of Columbia. When Congress said it should be no suffrage in the District, it would not deprive any man of any right guaranteed him by the Constitution. Congress had the same power over the District that it had over Fort Monroe or Fort Hamilton, and would it be contended that there could be any authority within any of these forts in hostility to the Federal Government, It never was intended that the seat of the Federal Government should be at the power of any municipality. The people of this District are not the only persons interested in it. The Government itself is the largest property holder here, and had a right to protect its own property.

Pending discussion, the Senate, after an executive session, adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House, in Committee of the Whole, Mr. E. H. Roberts in the Chair, considered the Legislative Appropriation bill.

Nothing of public interest occurred until the paragraph was reached which makes provision for the Bureau of Education, a proposition to increase the clerical force of the Bureau was made by Mr. MORROW, and advocated by himself, Messrs. BECK and TOWNSEND, and was opposed by Messrs. FRYE and COX. The latter avowed his hostility to the whole system of bureaucracy, and argued that all these bureaus which had no warrant in the Constitution would be abolished by the next Congress, because, if the Democratic party had not the power to do away with such power in the House to prevent the passage of laws.

Mr. GARFIELD favored the increase proposed by Mr. Monroe, and defended the Bureau or Education as a necessary instrument for obtaining and publishing educational statistics. If the Democratic party proposed to begin its new career of power by putting out the eye of the Government by destroying the methods of obtaining intelligence of the condition of the people; if the Government was to enter on a system which build penitentiaries, and was to take no steps to get information as to whether it was not possible by a better system to avoid the necessity for penitentiaries, then he though it was well that they should have timely notice.

Mr. WILLARD, of Vermont, argued against the Bureau of Education as an unwarranted interference with a matter which the people themselves could and did control. He was not aware that there was for a Bureau of Boots and Shoes.

Mr. FORT. Mr. Monroe's proposition was rejected.

Mr. HEREFORD moved to strike out the whole appropriation for the Bureau of Education and argued against the whole system of centralization. He referred to Spain as illustrating that system by which a nation might become powerful but by which individuals were dwarfed. The motion was rejected.

The committee progressed as far as page 64.

Mr. DAWES introduced a bill making provision for the payment of the sinking fund. Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

Adjourned.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 18, 1874.

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Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1874.

THE turning of the tide. The leading Chicago iron manufacturers and dealers state that there is a very extensive inquiry for steel rails, and that the prospect of a good spring business is excellent.

BASING its estimates on carefully collected information from trade authorities, the *Financial Chronicle* computes the cotton crop for the current year at 4,170,000 bales. The next crop is estimated at 4,300 bales, allowing a decline in Mississippi, Tennessee and Arkansas, and an increase in all the other cotton growing States.

WESTERN papers note a slow but continuous decline in rates of interest for money in the principal markets of that section, not only for short loans but for loans to run from six to twelve months. It is also noticeable that the prices of a large majority of railroad bonds and other securities have been steadily advancing for the last three months. These facts are evidence of a considerable increase of capital seeking investment.

PERHAPS no better gauge of the improved and improving condition of the manufacturing interests in New England could be found than the fact that a large number of mills which, two or three months ago, were running on half time, or less, are now running from two-thirds time to their full capacity of production. This is every way encouraging, indicating, as it does, that a substantial revival of industry and commerce is comparatively close at hand.

A COMPARATIVE statement of the gross earnings of fifteen of our principal lines of railways, up to the latest dates reported, as published in the *Financial Chronicle*, indicates quite a fair degree of prosperity, particularly in the roads of the great West, where there has been a marked recovery from the effects of last fall's panic. The exhibit would doubtless be still more satisfactory could a comparison of the working expenses, which are understood to have been materially diminished, be presented.

THE Republicans of the old Twenty-Third Congressional district have done themselves honor in electing Col. JOHN M. THOMPSON to fill the unexpired portion of Mr. MCJUNKIN's term. Brief as his period of service will be, it will yet, we doubt not, be of sufficient duration to practically convince the electors of the district of the thorough wisdom of their choice. The result also suggests the bucketfuls of wit and sarcasm which the opposition have poured out over the supposed demise of the Republican party, may quite possibly turn out to have been premature. Funerals are awkward affairs when the "corpse" is not dead.

THE Washington correspondent of the New York *Times* says that some of the members of the Board of Managers of the National Homes for disabled soldiers are inclined to favor the admission of soldiers of the Confederacy on equal terms with those of the Union, and predicts that such a proposition will be made within the next two or three years. It is quite likely. It would be in accordance with the Democratic fitness of things. We predict, too, that an ex-rebel General will *be* made Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs in the next Congress, and another that *on* Invalid Pensions to Union Soldiers.

THE detailed statistics of the British Board of Trade return for November have not yet reached us, but the London *Times* says they show results very similar to those of the past few months, a decline in values, accompanied by a fair increase in quantities. Taking the returns as a whole, however, the *Times* says they must be deemed satisfactory, the population generally obtaining articles of consumption, with few exceptions, at lower rates, and manufacturers being enabled to supply themselves with raw materials at such rates that, with the comparatively moderate wages now ruling, all that seems necessary is some slight stimulus to enable a good trade to be done in the course of the next few months."

VIRGINIA appears to consider herself out of the Union, yet. A Democratic senator of that State, named GRAHAM, some time ago received $1,700 for procuring the appointment of a cadet; a portion of which money, he caused it to be understood, was handed over by him to Representative STOWELL, a Congressman from the same State. This is denied by the latter, and GRAHAM bluntly refuses to appear before the investigation committee to testify, on the ground that, being a member of the Legislature of the sovereign State of Virginia, attending to his duties, he is not bound to respond to the process of the Congress of the United States. The fellow probably lied in his statement as to the disposal of the money, and is too great a coward to acknowledge it. But his contumelious subterfuge should not for a moment be allowed to screen him. He should be yanked before the committee by the nape of the neck, if necessary.

NO ROGUE, free trader or otherwise, e'er felt the halter draw with good opinion of the law. When, some time ago, the Treasury Department, in order to prevent the organized system of smuggling which was reported to prevail upon the Northern frontier, proposed to inaugurate a rigid examination of freight trains crossing from Canada into this country, the Democratic free trade press set up a concerted, hideous howl against the "oppression." The first report of the agents, which has just been made to the Department, shows that importations all along the line of the Canadian border are made in the most reckless manner, and that there are abundant evidences of attempts to defraud the revenue. Of about eight hundred cars examined in six days nearly one-third were unlocked, whilst a large number of other locks were so arranged that they could be easily removed. The result has been to increase importations by the way of Montreal to an unprecedented degree, the agents reporting that goods to the amount of $2,000,000 daily are frequently imported through that channel. The late extraordinary diminution in customs receipts is unquestionably owing in large measure to these fraudulent practices. Another denunciatory outcry from the free traders against the "tyrannous restrictions" imposed on commerce by the Government is now in order.

SPIRITUALISM AND MR. R. D. OWEN.

Paris is just now favored with the presence of a spiritual medium named ENRIQUE MATO, who is believed to possess transcendent powers. This reputation, however, MATO has not acquired in the French capital, but brought it with him from the island of Cuba, where his performances were of the most amazing character. Shortly before leaving Havana, at one of his seances he summoned "the spirit of CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS, and by the phenomena exhibited, "the spectators, though all men to whom fear is a stranger, were deeply agitated." It must have been awful. This MR. MATO seems worthy of particular mention on account of the definiteness and precision of his views on the subject of spirits. He is not one of those dreamy, foggy, uncertain speculators, who seek first to excite and then to puzzle rational curiosity by affecting ignorance of the very questions which inquisitive minds most eagerly desire to have answered. As to some of those subjects Senor MATO's mind appears quite made up. Spirits, he affirms, when separated from the body never for awhile betwixt the earth and the moon. The duration of this intermediate period is determined in each case by the habits of the spirit while a dweller in the flesh, in other words, by its piety or impiety, its virtue or its vice. And by the same considerations the final abode of the spirit is determined. Every spirit is assigned to one or another of the planets of the solar system as its final abode. Uranus being the place which the preacher celebrated by POPE never mentioned to "ears polite." Some American spiritualists will be displeased to learn, that, according to Senor MATO's information, spirits when once placed in the planets to which their deserts entitle them, are never more permitted to visit or have any relations with the inhabitants of earth. To this general rule, however, it should seem that there are occasional exceptions. At least the reporter of MR. MATO's teachings understood him to claim that he succeeded in interviewing "spirits from the stellar abodes." It is possible that the extreme rigor with which orthodoxy is enforced in Havana may have had some influence in modifying his statements.

It is useless to say that such babble is not worth repeating or thinking about. However contemptible or unworthy of notice at first, the spiritualist superstition has spread until at this moment it undoubtedly occupies the minds of millions of men and women. Persons exposed by natural constitution or by circumstances to such influences, are everywhere interested in the subject, and if not already devotees, are prepared to embrace the first opportunity of becoming such. The most civilized and advanced nations appear to be most open to the infection. It is in England and the United States that the delusion meets with most favor and is most rapidly extending, but it is slowly making way in most countries of Christendom. Indeed, there is some reason to believe that the stir and talk caused by it afford no sufficient indication of the progress of the superstition in any part of the world. For those persons who are not disgusted and repelled by it from the first, by its so-styled facts and suggestions, it seems to have a peculiar fascination. Once fascinated, they desire to find its pretensions well founded, with an eagerness of credulity which no absurdities can quell, and which hardly any exposure suffices to overcome. Persons of widely different characters and degrees of intelligence seem almost equally attracted by its revelations: persons of the class who have never ceased and never will cease to believe in ghosts, because they cherish the notions and traditions which favor their appearance, and persons who indulge longings to gain some glimpses of the invisible world. They long for positive evidence of immortality, follow in imagination departed friends and try to form some distinct conception of their unseen conditions. Mrs. BROWNING may be mentioned as an example of one who was thus led to accept the spiritualist superstition with all its repulsive features, and when one recollects what she was, one need not wonder that feebler intellects are befooled by the mystery. The fact probably is that many having admitted the imposture to dominion over them, speedily cease to perceive its real characteristics. They idealize it and mould its features to the requirements of their own mind and heart. It is a very common metamorphosis; the lover does not more uniformly see HELEN's beauty in a brow of Egypt than the devotee transforms his creed or his deity. Be that as it may, probably thousands, and some say millions, privately cherish the spiritualist delusion, who shrink from ridicule of themselves, without feeling that general ridicule of or contempt for their ghostly creed in the least affects its claims upon them.

MR. ROBERT DALE OWEN has manifestly long felt that he has received the high calling of an apostle of the faith. He is clearly one of the truest and most sincere of men; and nobody can read his writings on the subject without receiving the impression that he was gradually drawn into the superstition by its promises of light concerning matters of immense moment to him, matters upon which he had brooded with hopeless longings. It is equally clear from his works that he has either never seen or refused to know the darker, depraved sides of human nature. This truth is *naively* betrayed in his last letter touching the KATIE KING imposition. MRS. HOLMES, with solemn assurance, protests the innocence of a proved wrong revealed a phase of human nature completely, novel to him!" Still, however, he retains faith in the HOLMES couple as powerful mediums, and even believes that the genuine KATIE KING may have been seen through their agency. And doubtless Mr. OWEN will continue his spiritualistic apostleship with zeal more earnest and self-denying than ever. He sees that the delusion has received a terrible blow, and that the good cause calls for a renewal of self-devotion and energy on the part of its adherents. Such and only so much influential expositor and propagandist as this superstition is directly concerned. But, indirectly, other results may be looked for. Heretofore, a great many of MR. OWEN's readers have been unable to believe in his simplicity and gullibility. Though in writing, especially of late, he often writes twaddle, he has considerable power of statement, and this, in connection with his evident honesty, makes his writing somewhat influential in commending its subject to public attention. Many find difficulty in rejecting phenomena so honestly alleged and so plausibly presented. In future, so long as the KATIE KING imposition shall be remembered in its details, no person of sense, however predisposed to admit superstitious delusions, can place any confidence in Mr. OWEN as an investigator. His books may be read for their more or less amusing gossip, but as arguments in favor of spiritualism they are harmless.

SOME who know of the communistic settlement of Eben Ezer, near Buffalo, may not know that a scion or offshoot of that colony flourishes in the State of Iowa, seventy-four miles westward from Davenport. The colony owns twenty-five thousand acres of excellent land, and has a population of nearly fifteen hundred souls. They are Christians, and seem to be distinguished from other sects by their belief on the subject of inspiration. In fact, they are called by themselves as well as others, we suppose, Inspirationists, and they believe that an especial measure of divine inspiration is imparted to certain preferred members of their sect. The spiritual head of the Iowa colony is a woman eighty years old, named BARBARA HEYNEMANN, who is said to have been inspired from her youth. The members of the colony are nearly all Scotch Germans. The sect of Inspirationists sprang up, it seems, in Southern Germany and Switzerland toward the end of the Seventeenth century, but communism was not one of its original features, its adherents having become communists in this country. Though the families live separate in small houses, they take their meals together in houses for the purpose, and community of goods is maintained inviolable in principle and practice. They live well, and, besides prosperous agriculture, they manufacture cloth, woolen gloves, stockings, etc. Some of these articles are sold in the vicinity, but they even find their way to the New York market.

PERSONAL.

Consul-General Badeau, at London, intends shortly to take to himself a commander-in-chief.

Senator Ferry, who went to Washington expecting to remain during the present session, has come to his home in Connecticut seriously ill.

John Bull is so jealous of our reception of the King of Hawaii that the Sultan of Zanzibar is to be cleaned up and clothed for a visit to England.

Some one writes the Philadelphia *Bulletin* that Katie King originated in Toledo, and first materialized there. But the Toledoans were too "practical" for her. They exposed her, and then she traveled in towns where they are less bright.

The *fat simile* letter purporting to have been addressed by one of the kidnappers of Charlie Ross to a gentleman who was negotiating for his return, and published in the New York *Herald* a few days ago, proves to be an infamous forgery.

During the Yellow Stone expedition of 1873, Dr. Honsinger and Mr. Bolivar, of the party, were murdered. A few days ago the murderer, a Chief of the Uncopapas band of Sioux, named "Rain in the Face," was arrested at "Standing Rock" and taken in irons to Fort Lincoln.

Mr. Henry Washington, cousin to the Father of his country, died at Shreveport, La., on Monday week last, aged eighty years. He had only recently arrived in Shreveport, where he entertained the idea of following the profession of surveyor, a calling he had practiced for many years in Washington City.

James Wylie, a Scotchman, otherwise known as the "herd laddie," has been making a triumphal procession through the United States and Canada with his checquer-board. Hitherto his career has been unchequered, the "wiley chiel" having beaten everybody who came in his way. How many drafts he may have drawn is not stated, but they are presumed to be considerable.

Apropos of the recent centennial celebration of the Boston tea-party, the following inscription on a tombstone in the Wellsburg (West Virginia) cemetery, is particularly interesting. It was copied a few days ago: "Captain Oliver Brown, of the Artillery of the Massachusetts Line, Revolutionary War—born in Lexington, Massachusetts, 1762. He stood in front of the first cannon fired by the British on the Americans in the affray at Lexington—witnessed the tea-party in Boston harbor—was at the battle of Bunker Hill—commissioned by Congress 16th of January, 1776—commanded the volunteer party that bore off the leaden statue of King George from the Battery of New York, and made it into bullets for the American army—bore a conspicuous part in command of artillery at the battles of White Plains, Harlem Heights, Princeton, Trenton, Brandywine, Germantown and Monmouth. After serving his country, he enlisted in the armies of the Son of God, and surrendered to the last *Enemy* on the 17th of February, 1846, in the full assurance of a never-ending peace."

THE VICKSBURG BUTCHERY.

A Plain, Straightforward Account of the Late Outrage, and Its Causes.

[From the Cincinnati Gazette, 24th.]

Here is the plain, unvarnished story of the recent butchery at Vicksburg, as it was told as yesterday by one who is a considerable tax-payer in that city, who was there during the earlier stages of the crime, and whose character and veracity are vouched for by responsible parties.

The predecessor of Sheriff Crosby was a man named C. E. Furlong. He wasa very bad man every way. He plundered the citizens remorselessly, and when he left office last year, took away as his proceeds or booty $140,000. He was bitterly incensed at his defeat by Crosby. He wanted to continue his own fat pickings. He has been one of the leading men in the outrageous assault on Crosby.

This man Crosby is colored. He is about twenty-eight years of age, and is one of the most intelligent and capable colored men in the State. He had the respect of the people of Warren county (Vicksburg). His ability was as unquestioned as his honesty. He had served a term as Treasurer before he was elected Sheriff by Furlong as Sheriff in the autumn of 1873. His official conduct as Treasurer was above reproach or question. His accounts were so found correct when the unsullied term for final settlement. In fact, his election as Sheriff was largely due to the good record he had made as Treasurer. He was in office on the tide of a reform movement.

He assumed the duties of Sheriff and Tax Collector on the 1st of January of the present year. As a fair sample of the load to give bonds in the sum of $100,000, as Sheriff, in $20,000. He had no difficulty in securing them. Among his bondsmen were D. K. Rence and H. R. Pease, Senators; F. H. Little, President of the Memphis and Granada Railroad, and James H. Holland, State Treasurer. His bond was accepted as good and sufficient, and he began at once to perform his duties.

In September last one of his bondsmen, L. N. Hill, died. His widow presented a petition to the Board of Supervisors, setting forth the fact of her husband's decease, and asking that his name be taken from the Sheriff's bond. Under the laws of Mississippi it is only necessary that such a request should be presented to make it obligatory to grant it. Furthermore, the name thus taken off could not, under the laws, be replaced by a new one, but a new bond had to be given. It was certainly pretty hard, this demanding two bonds in less than a year.

"What can I do? I should murmur? My sister-in-law would answer that question by saying, 'Marry, nothing but a little, near sighted old maid. Am I an old maid? I am not an old maid. Yet twenty times a day, in the most pathetic voice and my old-maid style. Yet in the sight of God I am not an old maid. Fritz and I were betrothed thirty years ago to-day. Jesu verewiget ihn! Sie sind ein Mutterherz."

"My father is a Colonel in the Prussian army, and his proud spirit would not let his daughter wed with a schoolmaster's son. Poor old man! he feels disgraced that his son should be a parasol for the bee and butterfly. Famous, in anger. His two children fall him, he says. Gretchen, joy, sorrow, is free. If she wishes to marry Fritz, I love my brother next, and follow his fate, to make his life with a termagant life a little more endurable, so many names are never mentioned in my father's presence. They need not be. They are written on his heart.

"Mayist. I have just had a long talk with Lois about Maggie, his daughter. I myself always come at school, just as I learned French, and so when I visited Philadelphia with my brother, he was glad to be relieved. He has been taken off. This, bear in mind, would necessitate a third bond. This board refused to comply with the demands of the rascals who were trying to force Crosby out of office. Meantime the "citizens" held a public meeting, and passed a resolution denouncing in advance any white man who should consent to go upon the bond of a negro. Such resolutions were confidently counting on compelling him to make out. As we said, the board refused to fool any longer with Furlong's malevolents. "This bond of theirs must be as good as any ever offered in the State. Had it been presented by a Democrat there would not have been a word in opposition to it. It was exhausted by the persecuted men, and this is a conspiracy against an honest man that we are not going to help along." Crosby, too, went before them, and asked for protection against the violence against him. "Put your finger on any dishonesty I have committed, either as Treasurer or Sheriff," he said. Not a man could do it. They told him they were making impugning his honesty; they simply wanted him out of the way.

Matters stood thus until Saturday, December 5th. Then a meeting of "citizens" was held, at which it was decided to force Crosby to resign. A committee first visited him, and then a mob. Summoned by two or three hundred men, what course was left to him but to step down and out?

On Sunday Crosby went over to Jackson to consult with Governor Ames. He returned to Vicksburg in time to be there on Monday morning.

Early that day the big bell on the Court House summoned the people together. From six to eight hundred responded to the call to the summons. They formed in order, and were supplied with needle guns. "Do you call this a state of war or peace?" one inquiring citizen asked.

Meantime word was brought that the negroes from the country were coming in in obedience to the summons from Crosby. It was said that they were coming by the way. One company was led by a Captain Miller. Out about a mile and a half from the city a troop of colored people were met marching in. An old negro preacher was their leader. He was asked where he was going. "To see Sheriff Crosby," was the answer. "Well, Crosby has given up, and you had better go back home." Owen Gaslight and Miller, who had formerly been Sheriff, and it was finally settled that he should be taken to Vicksburg, while the rest of the company awaited the message in the Gaslight barracks.

Owen was taken to the Court House, where Crosby was still held in confinement, and had an interview with the city's self-constituted rulers. They told him that everything was settled in this city, and that the company of colored people must disperse to their homes. Owen started back with his white guards. When he reached his friends he was turned loose. Then the slaughter began. Some unhung desperadoes, more bitter than Yerger, "determined not to be cheated of blood. They were armed with needle guns; some of the negroes with revolvers, but most of them with nothing at all. What could be that they were shot like dogs? What wonder that at least 150 negroes were killed, and only one white man?

One who saw the slaughter said it was simply horrible. The negroes from the city were reinforced by a troop of murderers from the country, and between the two the colored men were mowed down. It was simply a massacre, a wholesale butchery. The scenes that were enacted there transpired in other places. Everywhere it was the same.

"All is quiet at Vicksburg," the dispatches say. Yes. It is like the peace Tacitus speaks of—it is a desolation. A reign of terror exists there. Republicans have been driven from the city, and dare not yet return there. Their lives would not be safe for a moment. It was a battle of races at first; now it is a crusade against Republicans, white and black.

AN EPISODE OF LIFE AT THE PARSONAGE.

About the second day after my arrival at the parsonage, last July, I said: "Mother, who can tell me the history of this queer old house, with its big, rambling rooms and air of German comfort?"

"There you go, child, always wanting to know the history of people and things. When I cleaned house last spring I found an old portfolio in the garret, full of papers written in German and French; they may tell the story of some of the people who have lived here. You know a parsonage sees many occupants."

I needed no further word, but ran up into the garret and gathered up the portfolio: it was locked yet, but the end had been torn off, and it was packed full of papers. I took it to the study room, and spreading an old shawl on the floor, poured out my treasures. There were several packages of old letters, every one dating back more than the use of envelopes. Some were postmarked Berlin, Prussia, some Paris, France, while Brussels and Cologne had not a few. There was a fair young face painted on ivory, there was——well, several little love conveyances, such as we all keep. You, sir, who have been trotting your grandsons on your knees for the last half hour, will remember that package of letters forty years old, kept in your desk under lock and key, labeled "Business." You, madame, who are a good wife and true, have your own package of yourhusband's first look of brown hair (your husband's was jet black), which you look at tearfully once in, oh, ever so long?

Ah, yes, I say we all have them. The most practical man of my acquaintance, kept a rose in a book for fifteen years; its beauty and perfume have long since departed, but to its owner it stands for all that is good and beautiful in life. Business may dwarf and cure some of the sentiments in the human heart, but

"Dear me! child," said my mother, "I would burn that trash of German and French papers; what do you care for other people's old letters?"

All paper, and especially all manuscript paper, is dirt in my mother's eyes, and I know her dread of "litter;" so, after being assured that I would gather up the least fragment, she left me to my reading.

I soon found a little book, evidently written by a woman's hand, in the neatest of German text, with here and there a French quotation. I read the book first, and then the letters: they gave me a glimpse into the lives of six persons. I know the editor would simply throw this into the waste basket, if I should attempt to translate all of them, but I will make such selections as may give you some idea of the lives of these simple people.

The journal commences: "January 1, 1839. This is the New Year wish Lotte sent me to-day from the Fatherland. When Lois prayed this morning at worship, I feared he would break down. I know he treasures the Psalmist: Ich will satt werden wenn ich erwache mach deinem Bilde."

"Yes, joy, sorrow, is free. If she has taken when this life is past, fills my heart.

"I heard a gentle tap at the door, and when I opened it, a large stood there. I bade him come in, and was just starting to call my brother, when he said: 'Marie, do you not know me?' He is much changed, but I knew the voice. I have often tried to think of him as an old man, but the picture would always come of brown hair, and blue eyes, whereas his hair is white—he is almost sixty now, and his long white whiskers make him look like the picture of an artist or a poet.

"My brother was smiles at the idea of two old Dutch people marrying. My brother says nothing. His face reflects my happiness; perhaps he thinks of Gretchen Lauman, Gretchen Recander, but we are not French, and I want to go back to my Fritz to the Fatherland. I was transplanted too late in life. I left the roots in the old country.

"Dear father and mother are dead. They have been dead, to me, many years. It is doubly sad to put one's foot on a human grave, to search an old heart's history.

"Here the journal ends, and none of the letters bore any later date. My mother suggested that some of the people who lived here tell me what became of all of them.

In the evening I called on an old lady who was said to remember everything that had been done in the congregation for many years. I found her an enormous collection of the weather, and conversation coming to a dead halt, I said: "Have you become of Mr. Franz Hall, used to preach here in your?

"Why, your Lutheran almanac would tell you that he is preaching in Missouri. He belongs to the Missouri Synod now."

"I am sorry to say the almanac would not tell me that because of his daughter; can you tell me?"

"Maggie, poor child, was a nurse in the army and was accidently killed in taking care of the wounded at the battle of Gettysburg."

"Having due respect for the almanac," I said, "I would like to inquire where a letter would reach Marie Franz?"

"Well, now, that will tell you," said the old lady, "she married a German gentleman, and has gone back to the Fatherland."

Of the Rev. Wm. H. Fabst it was not necessary to ask, for any of the church papers will show you that he is one of the lights of the church.

H. E. MONROE.

A Judge's Temperance Lecture.

At Mendota, Arapahoe County, Illinois, three saloon keepers—one woman and two men—were arrested and indicted for selling liquor to minors. As usual in such cases, the liquor sellers were lavish of their funds in aid of their unfortunate co-workers, and eminent counsel was employed in defense of these destroyers of the bodies and souls of the young and rising generation. But the proof of their guilt was so fully demonstrated that the jury were compelled to pronounce them guilty. Hon. J. N. Reading, the presiding judge, in pronouncing the sentence of the court, used the following language:

"The jury have found you guilty of selling the intoxicating liquors to a minor, it remains for the court to pronounce the sentence of law. The penalty of this offense, by the statute of this nature, indicates that it considered the crime to be of a serious character. By the law you may be fined not less than $50 and not more than $100, and be committed to the county jail until the fine and costs are paid. Or you may be fined and imprisoned in the county jail and $100 fine; its discretion may be exercised by the court. It is doubly sad to put one's foot on a human grave, to search an old heart's history.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, December 23, 1874.

The activity and life of the streets and the shops of the retail dealers is in sharp contrast with the extreme dullness in monetary circles. As a rule the banks are doing little business, and seem to act for the stocks of the time; they might as well remain closed till Monday morning when they shut their doors to-morrow evening, keeping one person on hand to certify maturing notes that may be presented for payment.

—The stock market has remained steady in price throughout the day, and quotations are higher as a rule than last evening. The probabilities are in favor of higher prices. The question to be answered by operators is whether the market has not already reached the lowest point and whether the general situation is not one to elicit confidence. It is certainly true that the latest is in better shape than at any time for some years past; the South has a rich crop of cotton to dispose of, in most of the manufacturing districts the contest between owners and workmen has resulted in favor of the former and the running time of factories is being lengthened. Those who operate in iron oil, grain and coal, and enter into contracts with the future on the basis of present values, must win a rich harvest. The country must continue to develope and from month to month grow richer. The record of our foreign trade is a very favorable one, showing that we are learning to depend on ourselves. The wonderful recuperative powers of the French people, which has enabled them to pay an enormous war indemnity, and place the finances of their nation on a specie basis, is the result of the consumption of home products, the refusal to purchase supplies abroad, and the long instilled habits of personal economy. Both of these lessons our people are rapidly learning, and the result must tell in the final summing up in favor of the increased wealth of the individual and the nation.

—We present below some facts of interest regarding the Clearing House Association of this city:

The Pittsburgh Clearing House is composed of the following banks, which are officially numbered as follows:

No. 1. Bank of Pittsburgh.
No. 2. Exchange National Bank.
No. 3. Merchants and Manufacturers' National Bank.
No. 4. Citizens' National Bank.
No. 5. Iron City National Bank.
No. 6. Mechanics' National Bank.
No. 7. Allegheny National Bank.
No. 8. First National Bank.
No. 9. Second National Bank.
No. 10. Third National Bank.
No. 11. Farmers' Deposit National Bank.
No. 12. Union National Bank.
No. 13. Peoples' National Bank.
No. 14. German National Bank.
No. 15. First National Bank of Allegheny City.
No. 16. Pittsburgh National Bank of Commerce.
No. 17. Messrs. N. Holmes & Sons.
No. 18. Tradesman's National Bank.

These banks have until one o'clock to report on the checks against them in the Clearing House; if not returned by that hour they must stand paid.

Below is a list of the other banks represented in the Clearing House, whose checks are regularly cleared, who are not members of the association. The list gives the name of the bank through which the clearing is made, and the hour at which checks must be reported on if not good.

Anchor Savings Bank, Pittsburgh, clears through the First National Bank, Pittsburgh, subject to return by 2 P. M.

American Bank, Farmers' Deposit National Bank, Pittsburgh, 1 P. M. same day.

Artisans' Bank, Tradesman's National Bank Pittsburgh, 1 P. M. same day.

Allegheny savings Bank, Allegheny National Bank, Pittsburgh, 2½ P. M. same day.

Allegheny Real Estate Bank, First National Bank, Allegheny, 2½ P. M. same day.

Allegheny Trust Co., First National Bank Allegheny, 2½ P. M. same day.

Arsenal Bank, National Bank of Commerce, 11 A. M. next day.

Allegheny Homestead Bank, Farmers' Deposit National Bank, 1 P. M. same day.

Bank of Industry, Allegheny National Bank, 1 P. M. same day.

Braddocks Trust Co., First National Bank, Pittsburgh, 2 P. M. next day.

Central Bank, Allegheny National Bank, 1 P. M. same day.

Commercial Banking Co., Farmers' Deposit National Bank, 1 P. M. same day.

Commercial Banking Co., McKeesport, Exchange National Bank, 1 P. M. next day.

City National Bank, First National Bank, 1 P. M. same day.

City Deposit Bank and Trust Co., National Bank of Commerce, 1 P. M. next day.

Diamond Bank, Allegheny, M. & M. National Bank, 1 P. M. same day.

Duquesne Bank, Exchange National Bank 1 P. M. same day.

Diamond Savings Bank, Allegheny, First National Bank, Allegheny, 2½ P. M. same day.

Dollar Savings Bank, Allegheny, Citizens' National Bank, Pittsburgh, 2½ P. M. same day.

Enterprise Savings Bank, Allegheny, German National Bank, II A. M. next day.

Fort Pitt Banking Company, Citizens National Bank, 1 P. M. same day.

Freehold Bank, Allegheny National Bank, 1 P. M. same day.

Fifth Avenue Bank, Tradesman's National Bank, 1 P. M. same day.

Fruit Savings Bank, Allegheny, Union National Bank, 2½ P. M. same day.

Mechanics' Savings Bank, Shinpsburg, Allegheny National Bank, 2 P. M. next day.

Farmers and Mechanics' Bank, Birmingham, Third National Bank, II A. M. next day.

First National Bank, Birmingham, Fourth National Bank, II A. M. next day.

German American Bank, Iron City National Bank, 1 P. M. same day.

German Savings Bank, Allegheny, Third National Bank, 2½ P. M. same day.

German Savings and Loan Bank, Birmingham, German National Bank, II A. M. next day.

Girard Savings Bank, Allegheny, First National Bank, Allegheny, 2½ P. M. same day.

Hobaken Savings Bank, Allegheny National Bank, 1 P. M. same day.

Hart, Caughey & Co., Allegheny National Bank, 1 P. M. same day.

International Bank, German National Bank, 1 P. M. same day.

Iron and Glass Dollar Savings Bank, Birmingham, Mechanics National Bank, II A. M. next day.

Keystone Bank, First National Bank, 1 P. M. same day.

Lawrence Savings Bank, Union National Bank, II A. M. next day.

Liberty Insurance Bank, Citizens' National Bank, 1 P. M. next day.

Masonic Deposit Savings Bank, Allegheny National Bank, 1 P. M. same day.

Metropolitan Bank, Tradesman's National Bank, II A. M. next day.

Monongahela Insurance Trust Co., Iron City National Bank, 1 P. M. same day.

Monongahela Savings Bank, Peoples' National Bank, 1 P. M. same day.

Manchester Savings Bank, Allegheny, Allegheny National Bank, 1 P. M. next day.

Nation's Bank for Savings, First National Bank, Allegheny, 2½ P. M. same day.

Odd Fellows' Savings Bank, First National Bank, Pittsburgh, 1 P. M. same day.

Peoples' Savings Bank, M. & M. National Bank, 1 P. M. same day.

Peoples' Savings Bank, Allegheny, Farmers' Deposit National Bank, 2½ P. M. same day.

People's Savings Bank, McKeesport, First National Bank, 2 P. M. next day.

Penn Bank, Allegheny National Bank, 1 P. M. same day.

Park Savings Bank, Allegheny, First National Bank, Allegheny, 2½ P. M. same day.

Pittsburgh Savings Bank, First National Bank, Pittsburgh, 1 P. M. same day.

R. Patrick & Co., Peoples National Bank, Pittsburgh, 1 P. M. same day.

Robinson Bros., M. & M. National Bank, Pittsburgh, 1 P. M. same day.

Real Estate Loan and Trust Co., Allegheny, Third National Bank, Pittsburgh, 2½ P. M. same day.

Shoe and Leather Bank, National Bank of Commerce 1 P. M. same day.

Smithfield Savings Bank, Union National Bank, 1 P. M. same day.

Second National Bank, Pittsburgh, clears through the First National Bank, Pittsburgh, 1 P. M. same day.

Third National Bank, Pittsburgh, clears through the First National Bank, Pittsburgh, 1 P. M. same day.

Union National Bank, Pittsburgh, clears through the First National Bank, Pittsburgh, 1 P. M. same day.

Workingmens' Savings Bank, Allegheny, Union National Bank, 2½ P. M. same day.

—The new seven per cent. bonds issued by the Allegheny Valley Railroad in accordance with the arrangements recently made, have been placed in the hands of the creditors. The market value of these bonds has been variously estimated by different parties. The first transaction that we have heard of tending to establish their quotable price, took place to-day. In this transaction, $25,000 of these bonds were taken as payment for a heavy purchase of iron, at 75 per cent. of their face, which, until further dealings in the same securities shall have taken place, may be accepted as a quotation of their market value.

—The following table shows the price of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day. Furnished by the St. Clair Banking Company, No. 16 Sixth street:

December 23, 1874.	10:30 A. M.	11:30 A. M.	12:30 P. M.	1:30 P. M.	2:30 P. M.
Gold	111½	111½	111½	111½	111½
U. S. 6's, 1881					117½
U. S. 5-20's, coup	120½		120½		120½
5-20's, 1867	113½		113½		113½
5-20's, 1865	117½		117½		117½
5-20's, 1865, new	117½		117½		117½
5-20's, 1867, coup	119½		119½		119½
5-20's, 1867, reg	117½		117½		117½
5-20's, 1868	118½		118½		118½
10-40's, coupon	114½		114½		114½
Currency 6's	117½		117½		117½
New 4½ per cents	113½		113½		113½
Western Union Tel	80½	79½	80½	80½	80½
Pacific Mail	30½	30½	30½	30½	30½
Panama	118½				
Adams Express	87½		87½		
Wells-Fargo Express	87½		87½		
American Express	61½		61½		61½
United States Express	61½		61½		61½
New York Central	101	100¾	101		101
Erie	27		27½		28
Michigan Central	80½		80½		80½
Michigan Southern	90½	90½	90½	90½	90½
Illinois Central	97½		97½		98
Cleveland & Pittsburgh	90½		90½		90½
Chicago & Northw'n	46½	46½	45½	45½	45½
Do. preferred	62		62	101½	100½
Rock Island	97½	97			97½
St. Paul, common	37½	37			37½
Do preferred	56½	56½			56½
Wabash, common	24	24			24
Fort Wayne	94½				94½
Ohio & Mississippi	31½	31½		31½	30
Indiana Central		54½			54½
Harlem		127		127½	128
Hannibal & St. Jo		24½		24½	24½
C. C. & I.					94
Wheeling & Lake Erie	25				25
Toledo & Wabash	26				26
Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw	20				20
South Carolina, Apts	70				70
Virginia 6's	75½				75½
Missouri 6's	97				97

GENERAL MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY, December 23, 1874.

The almost universal report of wholesale dealers and jobbers in nearly every department of trade is one of dullness. The only exceptions are in some lines of trade for which there is an especial seasonable demand, and in one or two instances when wholesalers are cutting prices to stimulate the demand. The impression is however that retailers will not enter the market to any extent until after the 1st of January, when it is hoped there will be an reviving and improving market. Values are generally steady. The most important changes which we note to-day are an improvement of about 1c per bushel on corn and the continued drooping character of quotations for oats.

The New York *Bulletin* says: "We have received from Messrs. Mosebach & Humphrey, of Chicago, an interesting exhibit of the tea trade of the West, and a statement of the progress of that city in the direct importation, via San Francisco, of tea from China and Japan, by which it appears that this year, up to December 1st, there had been received in this way 2,500 half chests of Japan and 7,300 half chests green, besides consignments from San Francisco of 16,131 half chests Japan, 800 half chests black tea and 3,108 half chests green, in addition to which there had been sales in that market for Chicago during the time mentioned, of 4,950 half chests Japan and some green tea."

The receipts of the leading articles of produce during the past two weeks:

	Last week.	This week.	Total
Flour, bbls	16,048	13,223	29,271
Apples, bbls	2,382	1,062	3,325
Cheese, lbs	849	924	1,873
Corn, bush	63,135	76,227	14,362
Wheat, sks	3,547	3,537	7,084
Barley, sks	6,716	6,692	12,415
Peas, sks	1,800	1,219	3,073
Oats, sks	17,042	21,139	38,181
Butter, pkgs	1,200	1,305	2,505
Bacon, pcs	3,737	2,272	6,009
Bacon, tcs	590	321	821
Potatoes, bush	2,439	6,120	8,559
Hay, bales	2,117	2,464	4,581

The following quotations are prices realized on wholesale transactions, unless otherwise specified, and jobbers will charge an advance. Sales of grain, unless stated to the contrary, are free in elevator:

GRAIN, FLOUR AND FEED.

GRAIN—The market continues dull and there is an evident disposition on the part of buyers not to operate until after the holidays. Receipts continue limited and the amount of grain is coming in by river, which makes the aggregate receipts large. 94,300 bushels for the week ending to-day, against 93,000 bushels for the preceding week. There continues to be a liberal attendance at the Grain Call at the Produce Exchange, but owing to the dullness of business, transactions are light. The principal feature of the market to-day were the continuing tendency of oats and the improvement in the prices of corn.

Wheat—The market is steady and unchanged. The past week's receipts are 3,841 bushels, against but 8,807 bushels for the preceding week. Most of the arrivals are consigned direct to millers. Inquiry is confined to a few lots to supply immediate wants. Receipts continue liberal, and the market is somewhat weaker, though not quotably changed. Transactions are also reported in futures in jobbing way. Extra choice apples are quoted at $2 85@ bbl; $2 90@3 25 for choice; $1 25@1 75 for common to good. Dried apples: sales these prices would be shaded. Receipts for the past two weeks are somewhat increased, being 3,382 barrels.

APPLE BUTTER—The supply is large and sources but larger than the requirements of the demand. The market is quotable at 35@36c per gallon for prime to choice.

BEANS—There is no particular change to note in the demand for beans which is stock and dull. We quote prime white navy at $1 60@2 25 bushel; low-mixed 75@76c, with a somewhat decreased stock of shelled offering. Lar is in liberal supply, and the demand is now comparatively active at a range of 75@75c ₱ bushel; and most of the offering is being taken at 74@75c. Ear corn on the wharf sold at 71@72c. There has been a decrease in the receipts, which are 13,067 bushels during the past week, against 22,857 bushels for the week previous.

Oats—With little local demand, dealings limited, and increased receipts—amounting to 52,847 bushels during the week, against 42,665 bushels the preceding week—the market has been heavy and the drooping tendency to prices continues. Holders, however, are confident of the future, and make no effort to force sales, as they say the stock cannot be replaced at present prices, and that there will be a strong demand for seed after the holidays. We note sales of white at 64½c per bushel, and mixed at 62½@63c, and quote at 62½@63c for white and 60@62c for mixed. The dull character of the market is attributed chiefly to the disposition of retailers to reduce both their purchases and their liabilities for the list of January settlements.

Barley—Although there is no change in the market for canned goods, which is rather quiet. The indications are that the consumption of this class of goods, will be greater than ever before. The receipts have been mainly in Japan. Lines have been held with a much firmer demand at times, and the aggregate movement has been quite large; the facts, the same day when there is a lull in the market for invoices, the activity of lines in a great measure counterbalanced this.

CANNED GOODS—There is but little

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1874.

THE total imports at Philadelphia for November, including $35,046 brought in bond through New York, amounted to $1,345,500, against $1,491,334 in October. The imports for the same month last year were $1,230,070.

THE St. Louis *Dispatch*, at least, is not blind to the meaning of the late Democratic victories. It says, gleefully: "The day is at hand when it will be no more harm to kill a carpet-bagger than a moccasin snake."

COUNTERFEIT ten dollar notes on the National Bank, Ind., National Bank have been put into circulation in Toledo, O., and may find their way hither. Business men should look out for them. The bogus bill is not very well executed, and can be easily detected.

WHILE the export trade of all the other ports of the country increased during the month of November, it fell off eight millions at the port of New York. The proceeds out by these figures does not seem to make the New York editors either amused or entertaining.

THE chivalry of the South was, in former times, manifested in whipping women and children and selling them for the vilest purposes; it now seeks for recognition in hunting children out of the public schools. The women-whippers retain all their old malignity and meanness.

THUS far, in Congress, the Democrats have chiefly distinguished themselves for lack of political intuition, blindness to opportunity, and inability to comprehend the signs of the times and the conditions of success. We are not at all alarmed concerning the possible duration of its lease of power. It will be very brief.

Two members of the Legislature elected in November have since died—one of them a Democrat and one a Republican; and two others are so unwell that they cannot attend the assembling of the House. One of these is Judge PARKER, Republican, of Washington county, and the other is JOHN HANNAN, Democrat, of Cambria county.

IT is an item of consolation to the long-depressed oil interest to note that the advance on crude oil during last week was ten cents per barrel, and that since December 1st the advance has been fully twenty cents per barrel. The advance is not large, but it is sure and steady, and if it continues, why, as Colonel SELLERS says, "there's millions in it."

A CONTRACT for a term of five years has just been concluded between the Central and Union Pacific Railroads and the Occidental and Oriental Steamship Company, of California, for a through first-class line of steamships to run between San Francisco and Japan and China. The new line is put on purely as a business enterprise, and will ask for no subsidy or other Government aid.

THE lynching of a convicted murderer at Des Moines, Iowa, by one hundred residents of that city, who took the convict out of prison by force and hung him, is as great a disgrace to Iowa as the Vicksburg slaughter to Mississippi. If the State authorities do not hunt out and hunt down the murderers who committed this gross act of unlawful violence, they will prove themselves unworthy of their places.

THE Atlantic and Great Western Railroad, which is an extension, westward, of the New York and Erie road, failed to pay running expenses during the year ending September 30th. Its total receipts were $4,958,237, and its expenses, $5,427,851—a dead loss of $589,596; and the Cleveland *Herald* puts the total losses of the road since September 1, 1871, at $5,949,104. The road is now in the hands of a Receiver.

IT is a noteworthy fact that this fall and winter scarcely any of the banks west of Ohio have asked for accommodations of their New York correspondents. This unusual experience is probably to be accounted for mainly by the fact that the West has grown rich, and therefore has more capital of her own, but partly also by the fact that one effect of the panic was to exchange a great many country bank accounts from New York banks to Western ones.

THE good fortune of that gold-edged Nevada phenomenon, SHARON, still pursues him. According to the California papers, recent discoveries of ore in the great Comstock silver lode, of which he is the principal owner, have been made that, it is estimated, will yield at least $300,000,000, with profits at sixty-six per cent. of that sum. The press of that section characterizes the discovery as "the most important event in the history of the Pacific coast." Its enormous value actually fatigues the imagination in thinking of it.

THE total European emigration for the present year, exclusive of persons who had previously been in this country, will, it is estimated, probably not exceed 140,000, while the number for last year was 296,000. The decrease in the emigration from Germany, and next to that, from Ireland. Fortunately, however, the quality of the emigrants seems to have improved as much as their number has lessened, there being, every year, a plainly perceptible advance in the grades of occupation from which they are recruited.

THE Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company has completed arrangements with the Erie road for an interchange of traffic. Freights received by the Baltimore and Ohio Railway at Chicago and points West, will be transferred at Mansfield, Ohio, so as to reach New York by the Erie Railway. Arrangements, also, are nearly completed by which passenger cars will be lifted from the broad to the narrow-gauge. The mails will also be forwarded by the same route. This looks as though Erie contemplated withdrawing from the Saratoga Combination.

MR. DAVENPORT, the United States Commissioner of Elections, in New York, refers in a published letter of his to the *World*, to a Democratic precinct in that city which, in off years, when there are no United States Supervisors to watch it, polls or returns 375 votes; but in the years when there are Congressmen to elect, and the United States Court authorizes election supervisors to be appointed, polls or returns not only 1,475—fifty-four votes—the falling off in years when the polls are honestly watched is very remarkable, especially when it is known how hotly the Democrats are opposed to election frauds.

ACCORDING to the New York papers, a better business has seldom been done in that city at this time of year than that which is now going on. Now going on, all trade circles there come reports of a better feeling and some improvement, the chief drawback and disturbing element being the existing doubt with reference to the currency question and the changeable price of gold. Shipments to the interior are increasing, and surplus stocks of goods are being rapidly worked off at moderate prices. Taking a broad survey of the commercial situation, the papers predict a fair business for the coming season.

THOSE who think education is the grand preventive of crime, are referred to the case of MOSHER, the CHARLIE Ross kidnapper, who was recently killed at Bay Ridge, near New York, while in the act of committing a burglary. His son-in-law, in a recent interview held over his dead body, bore this testimony to his character:

"The life of thieving he took to was his only vice. He never drank a drop of liquor in his life, never took a chew of tobacco, and never smoked a cigar nor a pipe. I never heard him swear even a bad word. He never had a fault but the one of wishing to acquire sudden riches, *and he had a beautiful education.*"

DR. LAVAL, a Surgeon Major in the French army, literally laid down his life in the attempt to grapple with the late visitation of plague in Tunis, and track it to its true source. In his investigations he caught the plague and died of it; but though he fell a victim to his generous enthusiasm, he has left such a monument as probably would have best pleased himself, in a complete set of notes and a diary, showing that he had perfectly mastered all the facts within his reach. As in a simultaneous invasion of the same dread enemy on the Persian borders, the plague had been preceded in the province of Tunis by a local famine, which reduced the Bedouin population to the greatest privations; and Dr. LAVAL's conclusion is that the plague is in its origin simply a very bad form of typhus, usually following famine, and aggravated by want of sanitary precautions.

BISMARCK VICTORIOUS.

While the cable dispatch may be correct enough in stating that "the sentence of Count ARNIM *embodies* no dishonor," it can hardly be true that the Count has not been more or less dishonored by trial and conviction. He is acquitted of the charge of embezzlement, that is, of fraudulently appropriating and applying to his own use documents intrusted to his care, but he is found guilty of neglecting to return, when asked for, the papers in question. And this offense is thought so serious as to demand the punishment of its perpetrator, by way of "example." If the perpetrator happened to be a clerk or other subordinate member of the civil service, the sentence would doubtless seem light and almost insignificant, but as the person made an example of is the most distinguished German diplomatist, and is besides a member of one of the most powerful noble houses in Prussia, the sentence bears a very different aspect. Technically he is not degraded, being allowed to retain his titles of dignity, but really he has received a stigma which can never be effaced. It is, moreover, unlikely that the Count's acquittal on the graver charges will be accepted by the great public as entirely establishing his innocence. The verdict found was probably the verdict desired and pressed by the prosecution, and a numerous party may be expected to take for granted that more might have been proved, if it had been deemed necessary or desirable to prove more. But even if this ordinary tendency in the case of trials involving partisan issues should not become apparent, it is safe to assume that a statesman or diplomatist cannot be subjected to such an ordeal as Count ARNIM has undergone, without being injured, for a time at least, in reputation and influence. A good many political opponents, if no others, will continue to believe him guilty of the acts with which he was charged or of which he was suspected. They will believe that he did engage in far-reaching intrigues to thwart the policy of his official chief and to obtain higher place and power for himself. They will believe that he did take advantage of his official position and information to make money; publishing rumors by which the funds were depressed and then contradicting the rumors when by purchase he had made a rise in the funds useful to himself. To think evil is so agreeable to multitudes that neither political antagonism nor the antipathy of caste nor frequent emphatic assertion of belief by important persons is needed to start and sustain such suspicions. When political antagonism, caste antipathy and strong assertion all combine to stigmatize a person whose position exposes him to temptation, the person must be transparently innocent if he is not held guilty by vast numbers.

On the other hand, Count ARNIM will not suffer for lack of partisans. If the influence of aristocracy and wealth could save a noble from a malign prosecution, and punishment, he would never have been tried. His relatives and family connections among the great are numerous and powerful, and, if reports be true, the Prussian nobility in general have regarded him with a degree of affectionate pride as a fine specimen of their order, as one who proved practically that a nobleman may be equal to the highest positions in the State. There seems also no reason for doubt that for a good while intrigues have been on foot, shared in by important members of the aristocracy, with the view of giving Count ARNIM a controlling influence in the Imperial cabinet. Of this scheme the chief purpose was supposed to be the removal of BISMARCK. And if any reliance may be placed in Berlin gossip, no less exalted a person than the Empress AUGUSTA has given this scheme her sympathy and aid, or has even been its concoctor and manager. The story goes that since some time she has not been "on speaking terms" with the great Chancellor, and longs above all things to drive him into retirement. One reason assigned for Her Majesty's dislike is jealousy. Like some other Prussian queens she loves political influence, which she thinks she might have if the Emperor's principal advisor were a less domineering and absolute gentleman than BISMARCK. In order to gain her ambitious ends it is asserted that she has not only formed connections with the ultramontane party, but has used Russian influence to cause alienation between the Emperor and his Chancellor. Count ARNIM also is said to have been one of her instruments, her willing instrument, one may fancy, and to have made her the despository of those missing documents the recovery of which has seemed so important to BISMARCK. If there is any truth in these statements which have repeatedly appeared in the German press, the convicted Count will have powerful patronage in the attempt to overcome the blight just cast upon his fortunes.

In the meantime BISMARCK has completely triumphed over his high placed enemies, and seems more firmly seated in his position than ever. A few days ago the Reichstag, taking umbrage at the arrest of one of its members, Herr MAJUNKE, on account of an article that appeared in his newspaper, the *Germania*, passed a resolution of condemnation of the act. The resolution declared the need of an amendment to the Constitution to secure the freedom of deputies from arrest during the sessions of the parliament. BISMARCK choosing to interpret the adoption of this resolution as a vote of want of confidence, gave in his resignation to the Emperor. But the Emperor peremptorily refused to accept it, and the Reichstag took advantage of an early opportunity, by a large majority, to pass a resolution which amounted to a vote of confidence. The cloud vanished, the whole difficulty was removed, BISMARCK resumed his place on the ministerial bench, and the state machine could go on undisturbed.

Germans are by no means blind to the fact that in this affair of Herr MAJUNKE the Reichstag does not appear in a very dignified or advantageous light. It was clearly right in protesting against the arrest, and when in resentment at the boldness of the majority, the Minister resigned, their action in appealing him seems hardly the thing for independent legislators to do. But, as a local German contemporary remarks, the members of the Reichstag know very well that in the new empire many things are as yet in a state of transition, and need the strong hand of the Chancellor in order to become really consolidated institutions. Members, therefore, subordinate their own will to the will of BISMARCK in cases in which, to nations long familiar with parliamentary government, it appears scarcely consistent with self-respect to do so. It must be remembered that real parliamentary life did not exist in Germany before 1867. Probably, also, in so readily offering his resignation, BISMARCK wished to show conclusively the falsehood of recent reports of his loss of influence. Certainly the result brilliantly justified his confidence.

ITALY AND FRANCE.

The "interview," a recognized institution in the United States, is not unknown in France. A reporter of a leading Paris journal recently succeeded in "interviewing" M. THIERS on the subject of his late sojourn in Italy and of the present condition of parties in France. As to the latter topic the reporter did not deem it discreet to publish all that the great man said; he had, however, no hesitation in stating that, in the opinion of M. THIERS, President MACMAHON must choose between the monarchy and the republic, the empire having no show. M. THIERS further thinks that while monarchy has a good many adherents, France is really, indubitably republican. "Everything proves it," said the old statesman, "and I see grave difficulties for the Marshal if he hesitates between the republic and monarchy." All this was said in anticipation of the meeting of the Assembly. M. THIERS thought that the Republican party, on the meeting of the Assembly, instead of assuming the energetic attitude expected by many, would quietly await events.

Some will recollect that while M. THIERS was in Italy, last summer, the strangest and most contradictory statements were published in Paris concerning the treatment he was receiving among the Italians. These statements were, of course, made for political effect. Questioned on the subject, M. THIERS said that he had been well received everywhere. "The Italians are our friends, and we ought to continue theirs. Italian unity is accomplished forever; it is a fact to be taken account of." "There was a time," he remarked, "when Frenchmen were not much inclined to accept Italian unity; but at the present day Italian unity exists; it must be recognized; we must preserve the affection of the Italians, who will love us as long as we shall not countenance clericalism."

Apropos of clericalism in France, it is a significant fact, that Mgr. DUPANLOUP, Bishop of Orleans and member of the National Assembly, had lately published a pamphlet on the condition of the Papacy. In it he represents the "Roman question" as still unsettled. He earnestly maintains that by the overthrow of the temporal power, the Pope has become, for all official purposes, a prisoner, and is divested of the conditions indispensable to the free exercise of his spiritual power. He is in fact a subject of VICTOR EMANUEL'S, and "notwithstanding the ridiculous and insulting guaranty laws," he is a "less free subject of the King of Italy than the poorest citizen of Rome, who may go in and out as he pleases." This, says Bishop DUPANLOUP, the Pope cannot do, and then the Bishop argues that it is highly dangerous for Italy to leave His Holiness in this position of constraint, as while thus left he cannot but regard and treat the kingdom of Italy as an illegitimate dominion. If, therefore, Italian statesmen would consult the true interests of their country they would spontaneously propose the only peaceable solution of the question by surrendering and restoring the temporal power to its rightful claimant; at any rate they would propose a conference of the Catholic powers and submit to whatever they should determine regarding the future position of the Holy Father.

But the most interesting feature of the Bishop's pamphlet is a distinct threat, that when the Ultramontane party, to which he belongs, shall obtain a controlling influence in France, there will certainly be another expedition for the purpose of expelling from Rome the robbers of ST. PETER'S patrimony. In this menace there can be no doubt that the Bishop of Orleans expresses the mind of a great majority of the French clergy. Of course those laymen who sympathize with Ultramontanism heartily sustain the policy. It is, therefore, not strange that many Italians feel uneasy, and make their good will toward Frenchmen dependent, as M. THIERS says, upon their hostility to "clericalism." The present government of France has given satisfactory evidence of its opposition to all interference with Italian unity, and of its desire to maintain friendly relations with Italy. It has yielded to the request of the Italians to withdraw the war ship Orenoque from the port of Civita Vecchia, and it is understood to consider favorably still another Italian request. While France continues represented at the Vatican court by a full ambassador, Italians find difficulty in believing that she really recognizes the abrogation of the Pope's temporal power. The withdrawal of this ambassador and the transfer of his duties to a member of the French Legation at Rome are concessions which President MACMAHON'S cabinet is believed willing to make. But if, as some allege, these efforts on the part of the French government to conciliate Italy are due to a single member of the DUC DECAZES, the Italians cannot reasonably feel much satisfaction in them. For the present and the near future, of course, the Italians have nothing to fear. France is not prepared to interfere with Rome or any other foreign city, and there are other powers, or rather another power, which would not permit French interposition against Italian unity. But with reference to the time to come, the long future, the Italians would be singularly stupid or indifferent if they did not dread another French expedition against Rome, when they recall the past, in fact, the practice of interfering with Italy has become almost a habit of the French people, whoever may rule them; they occupied Rome during the whole period between 1849 and 1870, and with the devoutly Catholic portion of the people the most cherished recollections of their national history are associated with expeditions for the rescue of the heritage of PETER. No wonder the Italians feel anxious, especially when they hear of clerical agitation in favor of a repetition of the old exploits.

IN ONE of LEVER'S Irish novels mention is made of a priest who said to some of "the boys" that they "hadn't the sowl never think of such a thing as putting TIM HOOLAHAN'S wagon up on top of his barn. It was very wrong, and they must not think of it. Such an idea, probably, had not occurred to them before, but the bare suggestion was enough. Next morning TIM found his wagon in the elevated position suggested. This trait of human nature seems to have been in the mind's eye of the Iowa Judge at Des Moines, who, in sentencing a murderer to imprisonment for life, took occasion to say:

As much as I deprecate lynching, and the terrible perils to the law which such life be discountenanced and opposed by all good men, yet they have often been resorted to under a similar state of things that must have existed in this case, and sometimes bands of desperadoes have never been broken up except by the action of vigilance committees. It is not the greatest wonder in the world that there was some talk of such a thing in this case.

Of course, with such an encouraging indication from the bench, the Des Moines people were not slow in getting up a mob to lynch this murderer. They did it; and the Judge who talked in this style is as responsible for their action as the men who took part in it.

IN THE Senate debate on the District of Columbia bill all the Democrats who have spoken, have declared themselves hostile to universal suffrage. They do not believe that the people are capable of self-government, and therefore they insist that Congress should step in and prevent the people of Washington City from exercising the rightful suffrage and denying participation in managing their own affairs. This Democracy in its unadulterated form. But why do not Messrs. THURMAN and BAYARD, and the other Democratic Senators, apply their Tory doctrine to other cities, as well as Washington? The people of Washington are as capable of self-government as the people of New York, for instance; and if the doctrine is good as applied to Washington City, it is just as applicable to New York. It is true that the American Revolution was based upon the demand that there should be no taxation without representation; but your genuine Democrat is a genuine Tory, at bottom, and thinks the Revolution was as unjustifiable as was the effort to put down the Rebellion of 1861.

THE New York correspondent of the Chicago *Journal*, in his last letter to that paper, cites a fact which, trifling as it may appear in itself, furnishes a significant commentary on the existing state of feeling in the South. It is, that all the men's clothing now being manufactured in that city for the Southern market are fitted with pockets for concealed weapons. The head of a very prominent house informed the correspondent that the retail purchasers in the Southern States would have nothing else. One recently refused to take a large lot of pantaloons because they did not contain revolver pockets. It is evident that the practice of going armed is becoming far more prevalent in the South than at any time before the war, and that any laws forbidding it are most likely destined to become dead letters. The New York dealers in small arms are also driving an unusually brisk trade with New Orleans and other Southern ports. These facts are ominously suggestive.

AN EASTERN paper states that Prussian manufacturers and tradesmen are sending to this country for skilled labor, and it is believed that during the next three or four months there will be an unprecedented emigration to Germany. In many cases money has been sent from Europe to persons here with which to pay their passage home. The New York Commissioners of Emigration state that the country is losing those who have learned trades, and can find no work here, and have gone back to Europe to work at them. If this is so there will soon be, perhaps, an opportunity afforded American boys to learn trades. For many years, under the stringent rules of the trades' unions, they have been shut out from this chance, and the demand for skilled labor has been supplied by immigration, nearly altogether. If the tide has turned, and if there is to be a change, it will be a happy day for American youth, who heretofore have been restricted to the professions, commerce and agriculture for the chance to earn a living.

AND now it is sardonically hinted that LAFAYETTE'S watch, originally presented to the Marquis by WASHINGTON, as a souvenir of the great revolutionary struggle in which the former bore so distinguished and honorable a part—which was stolen from him at Nashville during his last visit to this country in 1825—was recently discovered, purchased by Congress, transmitted to France, and presented with appropriate public ceremonies by Minister WASHBURNE to the grandson of the Marquis, on behalf of the United States—is, in short, a bogus concern. At least its former Louisville owner thoroughly discredits its identity, his opinion being that this discovery was a put up job by a San Francisco sharper." He says there are many watches of exactly the same pattern in existence, and believes the engraving upon it to be counterfeit. When the very strokes of time tick falsely, what trust we can feel to be absolutely true?

THERE is no such thing as satisfying the Democrats in Congress. Cutting down the appropriations for next year twenty-five millions does not please them; the agreement of the Republicans upon a Financial bill does not gratify them; and a refusal to adjourn over the Christmas holidays affords them no pleasure. What they want is a good, round defalcation—one for a million or two. *That* would make their eyes glisten; and nothing short of that will relieve their surcharged souls. If they do not soon discover some great governmental crime they will wring their hands in despair. If they fail to find one, we venture to suggest that there is an old defalcation of over a million, committed by one SWARTWOUT, in New York. They might unearth that, in default of a later one, or they might try their hands on a long unsettled account of a former Democratic postmaster in the same city. Both affairs will well repay their investigation.

WHEN, in old colonial time, Bishop BERKLEY was in Rhode Island, where he had waited quite a long period for the payment of a grant of £10,000 which the British Government had made to found a library in the colonies, he ultimately addressed a note to WALPOLE, the English Minister, in regard to the matter, receiving in substance the following reply: "If you wish to have me reply as Her Majesty's minister, I would say that the money will be paid at the earliest practicable moment; but if you ask me as your friend, simple HORACE WALPOLE, I tell you not to remain an hour longer in Rhode Island in the expectation of receiving the money." That is about the situation of the financial question. Of course everybody looks forward to resumption at some time—but who is going to fix the day?

CARL SCHURZ very honorably, and very decidedly, declines to seek any favors from the Democratic party. He says:

How can any man with common sense expect me, with my principles, to support the Democratic party? Can I do such a thing with my record—sacrifice my whole career for the sake of a seat in the Senate?

Mr. SCHURZ is now, as he always has been, a Republican. We have no doubt he regrets that, goaded by the treatment he received from some of the friends of the administration at Washington, he committed the folly of leaving the ranks of his party to right the wrongs he felt he had been subjected to; and we have as little doubt that, when the battle is again joined between the State, sovereignty men and the Republicans, he will be found actively at work with the latter.

DURING the ascendancy of the Republicans in this State, the Democrats were very much shocked at reports that the legislative patronage was controlled by a combination between Allegheny county and Philadelphia, and Col. TALLEY, a Democratic member of the House, and a candidate for Speaker, is very much annoyed to find that a similar combination has been made this winter, by which Allegheny county is to get the Speakership of the House, and Philadelphia the Clerk. It is all wrong, of course, Mr. TALLEY, but it would be all right, wouldn't it now? if it made Mr. TALLEY Speaker instead of PATTERSON. The thing that galls TALLEY is not the combination, but the way it works.

Maxims Worth Knowing.

Administrators are liable to account for interest of funds in their hands, although no profit should have been made upon them, unless the exigencies of the estate rendered it prudent that they should hold the funds uninvested.

When a house is rendered untenantable in consequence of improvements made on the adjoining lot, the owner of such cannot recover damages, because he had knowledge of the approaching danger in time to protect himself from it.

A person who has been led to sell goods by means of false representations cannot rescind them from one who has purchased them in good faith from the fraudulent vender.

Permanent erections and fixtures, made by a mortgagee after the execution of the mortgage upon land conveyed by it, become a part of the mortgaged premises.

A seller of goods, chattles, or other property, cannot in law when he neglects to tell the purchaser of any flaws, defects, or unsoundness in the same.

An agreement by the holder of a note to give the principal debtor time for payment, without depriving him of the right to serve, does not discharge the surety.

The opinion of witnesses as to the value of a dog that has been killed, is not admissible in evidence. The value of the dog is to be decided by the jury.

Money paid for the purpose of settling or compromising a prosecution for a supposed felony, cannot be recovered back by the party paying it.

A flap-jack copied from a "blotter" in which original charges are first made, will not be received in evidence as a book of original entries.

A mortgage executed upon an instrument by way of seal, is as good as a seal if it creates a durable impression in the texture of the paper.

If any person put a fence on or plows the land of another, he is liable to trespass, whether the owner has sustained injury or not.

A private person may obtain an injunction to prevent a public mischief by which he is affected in common with others.

If a person who is unable from illness to sign his will has his hand guided in making his mark the signature is valid.

Ministers of the Gospel, residing in any corporated town, are not exempt from jury, militia or fire service.

A wife cannot be convicted of receiving stolen goods when she received them from her husband.

An agent is liable to his principals for loss caused by his misstatements, though unintentional.

All cattle found at large upon the public road can be driven by any person to the public pound.

No man is under obligation to make known his circumstances when he is buying property.

The fruit and grass on the farm or garden of an intestate descend to the heir.

Money paid on Sunday contracts may be recovered.

THE history of Lafayette's stolen watch is at length revealed. It will be remembered that last June Congressman HOOPER offered a joint resolution in the House of representatives appropriating $300 for the purchase and restoration to the family of the Marquis de Lafayette of the watch presented to him by Washington, and lost on the occasion of his last visit to America. In connection with the resolution was a statement that the watch was in possession of one R. Ward of Texas, who had purchased it four years ago at a pawnbroker's sale in Louisville for the sum of seventy-five dollars. It bears the inscription, "G. Washington to Gilbert Motier de Lafayette, Lord Coruwallis' capitulation, Yorktown, October 17, 1781. "The watch was stolen from him during his visit to Nashville in 1825, by one Benjamin Flurney, who was anxious to possess some souvenir of the marquis, and who stole into his room where he lay asleep, and seeing the watch seized it and escaped. Years afterwards, overcome with remorse, he placed it in possession of Dr. Rufus Garland of Nashville, with instructions to send it to the family of the marquis after Flurney's natural death, he being then in poor health and not expecting long to survive. Dr. Garland deposited the watch in a secret drawer in a writing desk, and within a week after Flurney's death, which shortly transpired, he, too, died. Subsequently, by the merest accident, his daughter discovered the watch, and, being in the depth of poverty (having lost her fortune during the war) pawned it to one Stampily, a pawnbroker of Memphis—the lady at the time supposing it had been a gift from Lafayette to her father. As soon as she was able she sought to redeem the watch, but Stampily had sold it and she was unable to recover it. Some time subsequently, rummaging the desk, another secret drawer was discovered, and in it a draft for £150 upon a London banking house in favor of Dr. Garland, and a letter from Lafayette to Garland, writing giving the history of the stolen watch substantially as related above. A queer, strange story.

Obituary—Hon. James L. Gwinn.

The Altoona *Tribune* of the 18th says: The many friends and the people generally of Blair county, will be pained to learn of the death of Hon. James L. Gwinn, which sorrowful event occurred at his residence in Logan township, yesterday morning, after lingering illness. Deceased represented Blair county in the State Legislature during the years of 1853-4, and during his life he held several important offices, and deservedly filled the office of Associate Judge, and for a number of years was County Surveyor. For a long time past he has been a Ruling Elder in the First Presbyterian church, of this city, and was in his fifty-eighth year at the time of his death. There is doubtless no man in Blair county who will be more sincerely and deeply regretted than that of the subject of this notice. He was everywhere known and respected, while his knowledge of farm lands, coal veins, distances, etc., throughout Blair, Huntingdon and Cambria counties was invaluable.

Coal in Colorado.

The probable area of coal lands in Colorado is 100,000 square miles, a larger space than the six New England States. The ascertained area of lands abounding in coal is somewhat less than that of the State of Connecticut. Of fifteen mines working, one near Erie, the Boulder Valley mine, works about one hundred men, taking out about two hundred and fifty tons per day, the miners working by the piece, averaging from three to five dollars each. The vein, worked at from five to fifty feet below the surface of the earth, is now nine feet thick. The year's yield of the mine mentioned above reaches 225,000 tons, worth at least $1,000,000.

A DOCTOR'S STORY.

Mrs. Rogers lay in her bed,
Bandaged and blistered from foot to head;
Mrs. Rogers was very low.
Bottle and saucer, spoon and cup,
Coaxed the feeble blood bravely up;
Physic of high and low degree;
Calomel, comfy, homeopathic—
Everything a body could bear,
Excepting light and water and air.

I opened the blinds: the day was bright,
And God gave Mrs. Rogers some light.
I opened the window; the day was fair,
And God gave Mrs. Rogers some air.
Bottles and blisters, powders and pills,
Catnip, boneset, sy rup and squills;
Drugs and medicines, high and low,
I threw them as far as I could throw.
"What are you doing?" my patient cried:
"Frightening Death," I coolly replied.
"You are crazy," a visitor said.
I flung a bottle at her head.

Deacon Rogers he came to me:
"Wife is comin' round," said he,
"I truly think she will worry through;
She scolds me just as she used to do.
All the people have prophied and shirred—
And the neighbors have had their word;
'Twas better to perish, some of 'em say,
Than be cured in such an irregular way."

"You're wife," said I, "had God's good care,
And His remedies—light and water and air.
All the doctors, beyond a doubt,
Couldn't have cured Mrs. Rogers without."

The deacon smiled and bowed his head:
"Thus your principles read," he said,
"God's be the glory, as you say;
God bless you, doctor, good day! good day!"

If ever I doctor that woman again,
I'll give her medicines made by men.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

England complains that she is undersold in iron by Belgium and France.

There seems but small hope for transportation schemes in the present Congress.

California claims that the present year has been the best, financially, which her people have ever known.

Out in Kansas and Nebraska the wheat crop was so abundant and cheap that farmers are fattening hogs with it.

Trade is now better at Richmond, Va., than it has been since the beginning of the war, nearly fifteen years ago.

The Salt Lake *News* estimates the number of polygamists in Utah at 1,000 men, 3,000 women and 9,000 children.

Kentucky raised a thousand tons of hemp this year, and thus the political situation in that State is not without its promise.

The estimated value of the lumber now on hand in the country is $210,000,000, not including the large investments in pine lands.

The agents of eighty thousand English laborers have just arrived in Mobile, Alabama, on a prospecting tour through the South.

And now Chicago is ambitious to become "the bullion city of the Eastern slope," through the agency of its silver-smelting works.

That Brooklyn arena for the slaughter of reputations, in which wild beasts work their will upon each other, will soon be flung open.

There are yet standing in Maine, 1,500,000,000 feet of pine timber, while the growth of hemlock and spruce is said to be almost inexhaustible.

There are eight metals—indium, vanadium, ruthenium, rhodium, palladium, uranium, osmium, and iridium—more valuable than gold.

Smart and Steele are the suggestive names of the editors and proprietors of a new Democratic paper just started at Fort Wayne, Indiana.

General Banks says that "what the South most needs just now is the chance to reform itself." The inclination to do so, he should have said.

There are 5,000,000 bushels of wheat in store at New York, which is three times as much as there has been at the close of navigation since 1871.

Mr. Jack Frost has been appropriately selected as one of the regatta committee of the Hudson river Ice Yacht Club, at Poughkeepsie, New York.

The great railway lines running eastward from Chicago have agreed upon a reduction of their local passenger fares from three and a half to three cents per mile.

A Chicago shirt dealer has given up coaxing and taken to bullying the public to trade with him. A big placard in front of his store reads, "Buy or I will bust."

Estimating the immediate average gain to the country of each immigrant at one hundred and fifty dollars, the loss in the falling off from 1873 to 1874 amounts to $18,900,000.

Lumber is second only to iron among our industries, employing about 200,000 men, to whom are paid $100,000,000 in yearly wages. The capital invested is nearly $150,000,000.

A "big thing." The Purchasing Committee of the New Jersey State Library Commissioners actually purchased five new books for the State Library during the last month.

Warm remembrance. The Navajo Indians of New Mexico presented President Grant with a variegated blanket of their own manufacture, on taking leave of him the other day.

The gold value of the foreign imports at New York, in November, including specie, was almost exactly the same as for the same month last year, being $24,236,272, against $24,151,411.

Our light house system comprises 633 light houses and lighted beacons, 25 light ships, 40 fog signals, operated by steam or hot-air engines, 346 day or unlighted beacons and 2,565 buoys.

At the headquarters of the human hair trade in Germany, dealers are reserving choice samples for exhibition at our Centennial. The rarest color and the most prized is a pale gold.

Jerusalem can hardly be called a "happy home," just now. During the past year, one hundred murders have been committed there, but not one of the offenders has been punished.

PERSONAL.

Charlotte Cushman has cancelled her San Francisco engagement, and a paper in that city declares that the malignant cancer with which she is suffering must ere long cause her death.

Ben Butler has been called a good many hard names in the course of his career, but it was reserved for *Y Dryeh*, a New York Welsh paper, to apply to him the vilifying epithet of "Ymddangosodd y Cad Butler."

A letter passed through the Detroit postoffice the other day, bearing the following superscription: "To the Fat Kuss what eddits the Pontyac weekly *Gazette* and *Democrat*, Pontyac, Michigan."

A young girl has just left Portland, Oregon, on a curious errand. When three years old she was given away, to be returned, if living, at eighteen. She reached that age four years ago, and had just learned that her parents are in Florence, Italy. She has gone after them. In her separation she has been in Germany, England, India, Australia, China and America in a circus troupe. She was in a printing office in Portland.

A Presbyterian missionary in India has just passed to his reward, having, in the dusk of evening, been mistaken by his own servant for a thief, and plentifully peppered with small shot. His fellow-missionaries shed a tombstone on his grave, bearing, but not somewhat equivocal, inscription: "Sacred to the memory of the reverend et cetera, et cetera. He translated the Holy Scriptures into Pashtoo, and was shot by his own chokeedar. Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Many of our readers who witnessed the "Congress of Nations" at the Hippodrome, while it was performing here, no doubt admired the pretty little girl who occupied the post of Queen of the Lilliputs. This child, whose name was Minnie Hogle, and who was but four years of age, died on Tuesday, suddenly, to the deep sorrow of the entire company. "Little Minnie," as she was familiarly called, while Mr. Barnum was performing at Cincinnati, accompanied Messrs. Donaldson and Thomas on a balloon ascension, and insisted upon staying with the former gentleman in the swing above the basket. When the balloon had reached an altitude of a mile, Minnie desired to get down into the basket. There was no other way than for Mr. Donaldson to lay that gentleman's two child suspended in mid-air until Mr. Thomas could grasp her. This was accomplished safely, and witnessed by the immense crowd, who stood terror-stricken at the intrepid performance.

There are a good many funny things on the files of the Civil Service examiners at Washington. For instance, two candidates for $1,600 a year in the Treasury, recently said that George Washington discovered America; another, to the question, "Who were the most noted Polish generals in the American Revolution?" answered promptly, "Cromwell and Lafayette." A Y., by James Vick, the great florist and seedsman. The number for January, 1875, just received, contains 132 pages of matter, elegantly printed on tinted paper, and illustrated by five hundred fine wood engravings. To any one interested in floriculture or gardening it will be of great value. It will be sent to any address for one year for 25 cents. Mr. Vick also publishes a number of very handsome chromos, after paintings from the finest flowers in his extensive greenhouses, which would be worthy of places on the walls of any parlor.

FROM COLUMBUS, O.

The Party of the Old Man—A Cheerful Homage the Labor We Delight In—How the Court House Ring Intimidates Statesmanship—A Piece of Legislation that Challenges All Time for Meanness—Old Timers Coming to the Front.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

COLUMBUS, O., December 17, 1874.

There is nothing that pays, half so well now in the political handicap as a close communion with the party leaders and a careful regard for the wishes of the Old Man. And the Old Man and the party are regarded as one and indivisible, a duality in one essence. Great is the party and great is the Old Man, because one and indivisible they fill up and round out the sum of all hopes in the regime that we now have and enjoy. In fact, the Old Man *is* the party.

WHAT GOVERNOR ALLEN SAYS.

It's the great thing just now—or has been for that matter ever since the dawn of the era of the Restoration to quote the opinions of Governor Allen on whatever subject may come up in the legislative halls. He is their prophet, priest and king in the formation of opinions in regard to the public weal. If any measure comes up, be it of ever so little or great importance, some member is sure to rise in his seat with the remark on his lips, "Mr. Speaker, I observe that Governor Allen says in his message to this House that we ought to do so and so," or "Governor Allen has recommended that we decrease the expenditures," or "that we increase the number of offices," or "that we investigate this or that," and so on through the whole gamut of their legislative functions. Nobody pretends to question the divine inspirations of such a leader, and no one dares to get up and say that he knows something in his own right without the aid or suggestions of the venerable "Rise Up." The other day a bill was up to provide for an additional clerk to act as official reporter to the House. There was scarce a man on the floor who didn't recognize the necessity for such an officer and want to have one appointed. Still, when the bill was on its passage, with apparently no opposition, an old plug from down the woods somewhere rose in his seat to tell them that Governor Allen had recommended so and so in his message, and it wouldn't do for them to disregard it now whatever and when it came to the vote the bill was lost apparently beyond redemption. And this is only a sample block of the entire edifice. Rise up, William, is the embodiment of all wisdom, the arbiter of their consciences and opinions. I don't believe that the old man knows it himself, but the secret of it is the homage that they are all of them ready to pay to him as their political Moses, who has led them out of the wilderness after so many years of fruitless wanderings and idolatries.

THE COURT HOUSE VAMPIRES.

A vigorous warfare is being waged just now against the race of county officials who have been waxing fat on the pickings of place for the past fifteen or twenty years. The county offices are usually mines of wealth to those who hold and occupy them—while those of the State barely yield a living. The Secretary of State receives a salary of two thousand a year, while any County Recorder who doesn't make at least half more than that thinks he is very poorly off, indeed. The State Auditor is paid twenty-five hundred a year, while there is not a county of any pretensions in the State whose Auditor doesn't make from four to five thousand. The Clerk of the Supreme Court enjoys an income of two thousand a year, while there is scarcely a clerk of Common Pleas whose fees do not reach double that sum. The Supreme Judges receive three thousand a year each, against the salaries of four and five thousand paid to judges of the Superior and Common Pleas courts in the cities and larger towns. This being the argument and the Governor's message, already alluded to, the text, they have started out on a general crusade to decrease the fees of the county officers. Half a dozen bills have been introduced looking to this end, and all of them good enough, perhaps. But the great trouble with every measure is that he must have an exception made in favor of some particular friend in his own particular court house. Your court house ring is the instrument for making statesmen. It nominates the candidates and elects them. It pulls the poor devils out of the mire of obscurity, lets them up on their forks and stands them to the Legislature. More than this, once in a while it elevates the Coming Man from the peaceful walks of State legislation to the proud position of Congressman, and your local statesman always regards himself as the Coming Man. Therefore the Court House Ring must not be trifled with too much, for it can find a friend also—it can destroy as well as create. So while all good and great statesmen are in favor of reducing the county officer's fees in obedience to the will of Governor Allen, it turns out that each one is ready to sacrifice the entire l